MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 MARCH 1982

Israel

'Ali Visit -- The issue of demarcating the border at 15 points between Rafah and Elat remains unsolved, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said at a joint press conference with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali prior to the Egyptian delegation's departure. In remarks carried by Jerusalem radio, Sharon added that both he and 'Ali will submit to their superiors proposals raised in the talks and will meet again in Cairo within a few days in the hope of settling remaining technical differences. In connection with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visit, Sharon said it is impossible for a visiting head of state to come to Israel without following the normal practice of visiting the capital, the radio reported.

'Ali said in a statement broadcast by the radio that it took courage and perseverance to resolve the problems which faced the two countries 3 or 4 years ago and that there is no possibility whatever that Egypt and Israel will come to an end of this long process and stand still. In a statement reported by MENA, 'Ali stressed that a formula must be found to resolve the border issue because Egypt does not want any flaws in its future relations with Israel and does not want normalization to begin with disagreement. He also revealed that Prime Minister Menahem Begin suggested that autonomy negotiations be stepped up by holding a U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian meeting at the ministerial level, adding that this suggestion will be the subject of further consultations, especially with the United States.

Sharon revealed in remarks to Herut functionaries that at Begin's request he told his Egyptian interlocutors that future autonomy talks would be held in Jerusalem, Cairo and, if necessary, Washington. If Egypt refuses to hold any talks in Jerusalem, autonomy will not be discussed at all, Sharon told the Egyptians, according to excerpts of his remarks carried by Jerusalem radio. Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali said the Israeli proposal is not new and, according to Egypt's view, what counts is not the talks' venue but their continuation to achieve the Palestinian people's legitimate right to full autonomy, Cairo radio noted. According to Jerusalem radio, Ghali also said Egypt has no objection to holding autonomy negotiations in Jerusalem.

Sharon on Lebanon, Other Topics -- Stressing that 15 acts of sabotage in Israel and 5 in southern Lebanon during the last 2 weeks were carried out from bases inside Lebanon, Sharon warned at a Herut Party meeting that Israel may be forced to take action, the Jerusalem POST reported. Sharon also disclosed that an Israeli naval vessel was shelled near Rosh Haniqra, but was not hit. According to Jerusalem radio's military correspondent, the vessel had approached the coast in order to identify a target.

Sharon said Israel could easily hit Syrian missiles stationed deep in Lebanon, but such action would necessitate dealing with missiles inside Syria, and Israel has no desire to go to war. He added that if a genuine solution is wanted, it is necessary to think one step ahead, the Jerusalem POST reported.

Golan Druze Strike -- The curfew imposed on the village of Majdal Shams has been lifted, Jerusalem radio reported.

Lebanon

A Lebanese official denied that Bahrain has closed its embassy in Beirut, according to Beirut radio. Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan announced that Lebanese political and security officials and the Syrian Deterrent Forces commander will meet on 20 March to discuss security of embassies, Beirut radio reported.

Egypt

The military judiciary department completed a memorandum on the verdicts passed on those found guilty of assassinating President Anwar as-Sadat, MENA reported. The memorandum will be submitted for President Husni Mubarak's endorsement.

Sudan

President Ja'far Numayri held a press conference in which he said he has information that Libya is sending military hardware and explosives to Sudan, SUNA reported. He said the Libyans acquired three U.S.-made planes through third parties in the form of spare parts. Sudan has contacted Ethiopia to determine if its territory is being used against Sudan, Numayri revealed.

President Numayri also noted that he has issued a bill organizing the nomination of new regional governors.

Kuwait

A Kuwaiti-Bulgarian communique broadcast by Kuwait radio noted that during Bulgarian State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov's visit to Kuwait the two sides signed agreements on shipping; tourism; economic, industrial and technical cooperation; culture; and the equivalence of scholastic diplomas.

YAR

Citing the Beirut daily AN-NAHAR, Monte Carlo radio indicated that the opposition Democratic National Front's recent success in shooting down two government planes was due to its possession of SAM's supplied by Libya and the PDRY.

Iran

Iranian-Syrian Communique -- The Iranian and Syrian foreign ministers issued a joint communique, broadcast by Tehran radio, that condemned Iraq for continuing the war against Iran and called on nonaligned countries not to hold their forthcoming conference in Baghdad.

Security Situation -- Revolution guards arrested 30 Mojahedin-e Khalq members who had planned to subvert the broadcasting organization, Tehran radio reported. Revolution guards in Shiraz killed two Mojahedin and arrested others after surrounding and attacking their hideout, according to Shiraz radio.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi Envoy in Guinea -- An Iraqi envoy left for Conakry carrying a new Iraqi proposal to Guinea's President Ahmed Sekou Toure, INA reported. Describing the proposal as "important," the Iraqi envoy said that once Iran responds to it positively, it will have a considerable effect in defining responsibility for the dispute.

Military Situation -- Iranian revolution guards launched a surprise attack against Iraqi infantry in the Hamidiyeh area, killing over 100 Iraqis, according to a guards' communique carried by Tehran radio.

Afghanistan

Kabul radio broadcast PDPA Central Committee General Secret[illegible]abrak Karmal's report to the PDPA National Conference in which he stressed that the party needs greater unity. Asserting that dissension aimed at splitting the PDPA's cohesion will dissipate the party's strength, Karmal said the PDPA cannot tolerate any dissident grouping using the party's name and undisciplined and anarchic elements should not be allowed to remain within its ranks.

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KHALIL AL-WAZIR: ISRAEL PREPARING MAJOR ATTACK

PM161521 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 13-19 Mar 82 pp 13-17

[Salih 'Awwad interview with Khalil al-Wazir, Fatah Central Committee member and deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, known as Abu Jihad, in Beirut: "Abu Jihad reveals to AL-MAJALLAH Full Details of Israeli Plans" -- date of interview not specified]

[Excerpts] [Question] The resistance has for some time been talking about an imminent Israeli aggression. On what do you base your conclusions?

[Answer] There is one firm fact which we must note here: The present Israeli leadership comprising Begin, Sharon, Shamir and those around them has continuously displayed aggressive tendencies and an aggressive spirit and its actions reflect nervousness and chauvinism.

There have been repeated Israeli threats, including threats by members of the opposition. Yitzhaq Rabin spoke of the need to occupy southern Lebanon and remain there until Israel can dictate terms for the expansion of the framework of the UN forces' operations there and until the fedayeen withdraw to positions behind the Syrian borders. Furthermore, we have been receiving information from well-informed sources about Israeli field movements in preparation for a new aggression, including the following:

1. A mobilization was declared in the Israeli Army on 10 February and the reserves were called up.
2. The Israeli Army has been placed on maximum alert and preparedness.
3. Tank crews and aircraft technicians have been recalled.
4. The families of reservists who are abroad were told that they should join their units not later than 13 February.
5. It was announced that the mobilization would be completed on 14 February.

In addition to all this we have been receiving reports of tank concentrations in the military area of Zefat.

As a responsible leadership, it was our duty not to ignore all this information. We had to raise the alertness level of our forces and our people. We have received information from various friendly and neutral international circles that Israel is definitely preparing for a new, major aggression. We have embarked on a number of diplomatic moves to draw the attention of world public opinion and friendly states to the Israeli threat.

I must mention an important point here. The Western information media have tried to give the impression that the United States is putting pressure on Israel to prevent it from carrying out its aggression. The truth of the matter is that Israeli Chief of Military Intelligence Yehushua Sagi paid a visit to the United States when preparations for the Israeli aggression were in full swing. He took with him the blueprints of the new operation. We have information confirming that Washington gave the green light for a limited operation against the Palestinian resistance, provided it is not an all-out operation that might lead to a new war in the region.

I am not revealing a secret when I say that, in the light of the information in our possession and the Israeli threats and movements, we began coordinating with fraternal Syria and a number of other Arab states, especially at the military level, on the means to confront any possible aggression. Although the period when we expected Israel to launch its attack -- 10-14 February -- has passed, we still expect an attack at any moment because we know Israel's intentions are still the same.

[Question] There are UN emergency forces in the south. In what areas do you expect the Israelis to make their thrust?

[Answer] If the presence of UN forces in certain areas prevents the Israelis from making a thrust there out of considerations of world public opinion, there are areas in the south where there are no Un forces, such as the gap between the Al-Khardali bridge and the township of Balat opposite Marj 'Uyun. We have repeatedly urged the deployment of UN forces in this area, which may turn out to be the main axis for the Israeli offensive. Another possibility is that Israel might launch interception and sea or air landing operations beyond the borders and behind the UN positions. It must be pointed out here that Israel does not attach much importance to the presence of UN forces. It has carried out operations in UN areas, such as Bra'shit and other Lebanese villages.

[Question] If the Israeli forces advance through the Al-Khardali gap or land forces on Lebanese shores, this might lead to a clash with the Syrian forces working within the framework of the Arab Deterrent Forces. Am I right?

[Answer] A clash with the Syrian forces in Lebanon would depend on the extent of the expected Israeli operation. If the operation turns out to be a large-scale general operation involving air and sea landings and an advance on land on several axes, including areas where UN forces are deployed -- Israel does not care much about the international community and I want to stress that if Israel decides to launch a major operation aimed at destroying the PLO forces, it will not respect the UN presence and will seek to reach its set targets -- I believe that in this case the enemy will avoid a confrontation with the Syrian forces in Lebanon because the enemy knows that such a confrontation would develop and extend beyond Lebanon. However, in view of the present Arab state of affairs, Israel might be tempted to go for the Syrian missile sites in Al-Biqa' in Lebanon, in which case it would clash with the joint forces in the south before reaching the missiles. This means that the scope of the fighting could increase. I want to say that the Israeli aggression might take any of the following three possible forms:

1. A large-scale operation disregarding the UN presence in the south but avoiding a clash with the Syrian forces.
2. A thrust across western Al-Biqa' toward the Syrian missile sites. This would carry with it the possibility of an expansion of the scope of the war.
3. A limited operation to score a moral victory against the Palestinian forces and the joint forces and to dictate terms to the Palestinian resistance wuch as withdrawal of the Palestinian forces and expansion of the area of UN forces deployment.

We certainly take all these possibilities into consideration, including the air, sea and land operations. Any operation by the enemy will definitely not be a picnic. The enemy knows this and realizes that the price will be high. We have the will and the determination to stand fast and fight.

[Question] Israel says that the Palestinian resistance has exploited the cease-fire and has stockpiled large quantities of sophisticated arms and equipment. Has the resistance entered the stage of relying on advanced weapons rather than the human element?

[Answer] We rely above all on the will of the Palestinian fighters and the Arab fighters in the Palestinian revolution. The human being and his faith in his cause and his rightness are our main weapon. It is, however, no secret that the Palestinian revolution is still sending missions abroad to train and study, especially in higher military academies. We now have thousands of highly skilled people with the expertise that can be found only in the best armies. The revolution also seeks to develop its arms qualitatively and quantitatively. We always try to obtain whatever advanced weapons we can. This is in addition to the weapons we modify and manufacture with our own humble means. The enemy's claim about the massing of weaponry in the south is meant as a pretext for aggression. I wish to stress that what is being said about millions of dollars worth of arms bought from the Soviet Union or other states is not true. These reports are exaggerated.

[Question] You have spoken about U.S.-Israeli coordination in preparation for the anticipated aggression against the Palestinian resistance. To what extent can advanced Palestinian-Soviet relations be relied upon in the face of such an aggression?

[Answer] We must never, not even for one moment, lose sight of the fact that coordination between the United States and Israel covers all levels and issues big and small. We are certain that past Israeli aggressions were not committed without the prior knowledge of or prior coordination with the U.S. administration. The U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement is to provide the basis for daily practical implementation of this [coordination].

When we say that every Israeli step is coordinated with the U.S. administration, we mean the United States has given Israel the green light to commit aggression against the PLO and this is still the case. I do not expect a drop in the level of U.S.-Israeli coordination against the Palestinian resistance.

As for the Soviet Union and its attitude in the event of an aggression, we, faced with the ferocious U.S.-Israeli onslaught against the Palestinian revolution, always hope our Soviet friends will understand the nature of the U.S.-Israeli aggressive policy toward our people and revolution and the threat this policy poses to the entire Arab region. We always anticipate a Soviet stand against aggression, especially at the international level, to deter such aggression.

[Question] The recent fedayeen operation across the Jordan Valley gives rise to several questions regarding the efforts to enable the Palestinian resistance to mount operations across the Arab fronts.

[Answer] There are a number of facts to consider in this respect. First of all, the Palestinian revolution is doing its best to escalate the armed struggle in the occupied territory. It is making sustained efforts to gear all its resources to the occupied territory to boost the struggle there. We continuously seek to send patrols across all the Arab fronts, but regrettably, as is known, most Arab borders are closed to us. We do not have freedom to move across these borders toward our occupied homeland.

We are suffering considerably in this respect. There are many difficulties and obstacles. Many of our patrols become exhausted because they have to cover long distances under circumstances of anxiety about coming face to face with Arab soldiers. From our heart we cry out for open borders for fedayeen action. The way to stronger struggle in the occupied territory must pass through the Arab borders. A review of the story of one patrol entering the occupied territory would show the degree of suffering endured by the Palestinian fedayeen who try to cross into the occupied territory to fight the occupation. For example, the Hebron-Qiryat Hadassa operation took place after long suffering. The fighters who carried out the operation suffered greatly on the Arab borders before reaching the occupied territory. Some of their colleagues were arrested.

Regarding the recent (Eliyasid-Tubas) operation, the group which carried out the operation came under fire several times before reaching the occupied territory. Sometimes we send out about 14 patrols to the occupied territory within a period of 2 months. Eight of them end up in detention or in prison in the Arab countries. A few get through with difficulty to do their duty against the occupation authorities. We are certain that if the Arab borders were open to us we would be able to send dozens of patrols to the occupied territory daily and this would boost the confrontation with the enemy.

[Question] Every now and then we hear about contacts between you and the U.S. administration. The United States is making open contacts with you conditional on certain things. What is the truth?

[Answer] I wish to affirm that there have been on contacts between us and the United States because the latter is still clearly against the PLO and is committed to Israel. The Americans refuse to contact or recognize the PLO, as frequently stated by senior U.S. officials. Still, the PLO is committed to a clear principle. Its aim is to explain its position and cause to the American people. This is why many Palestinians in the United States are always engaged in various activities to explain their people's cause to the society they live in, through UN bodies or U.S. establishments. These are public, not secret, activities encouraged by the PLO.

There is no contact between us and the U.S. administration. Any U.S. administration contact with the PLO means recognition of the PLO, which the U.S. administration so far rejects.

It must be noted, however, that sometimes journalists, congressmen, members of American teaching staff and members of religious organizations come to us and pay the Palestinian resistance a visit to acquaint themselves with the struggle of the Palestinian people. We welcome such visits and are interested in increasing and developing them because they are important in acquainting U.S. society with our cause.

[Question] There has been a regression in Europe's position on the Palestine question since the Venice declaration. Would you comment?

[Answer] The regression you speak of is due to several reasons:

1. Since Mitterrand assumed power in France, the European position has become subject to the U.S. position. After the Reagan-Mitterrand meeting, the European position on the Palestine question began to change considerably, showing a retreat from the Venice declaration. It is now common knowledge that as soon as he assumed power, President Mitterrand began to put great pressure on the EEC states to make them change their previous attitudes toward the PLO. This was quite evident at the latest conference in Luxembourg. France has begun to lead several European states away from their previous positions on Arab issues, particularly the issue of Palestine, on the pretext of striking a balance between the Arabs and Israel. Mitterrand's visit to Israel mirrored the real French attitude toward the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. Our people and nation completely reject this attitude.

We call on Mitterrand to make his position clear once and for all. Is he on the side of justice or aggression? Is he for Arab rights or for Israeli aggression?

On behalf of the PLO and the Palestinian resistance I call for an Arab stand to persuade France to abandon its current policy toward the Palestinian and Arab causes.

2. The deterioration of the Arab situation to its present state has encouraged the Europeans to abandon their previous positions. This European retrogression can be stopped and turned into a position in our favor if the European states hear only one Arab voice, difficult as that may be at this stage.

[Question] Some people are in favor of giving President Husni Mubarak a chance to draw away from As-Sadat's policies. Do you support this trend?

[Answer] The days between now and the final date for Israel's final withdrawal from the Sinai are numbered. Only then will those wagering on the new Egyptian president know how good their wager is. From what we have seen and heard, the new Egyptian regime is still abiding by the policy of the previous regime as far as the Camp David accords and the normalization of relations with Israel are concerned. In fact, the normalization of relations with Israel has been taking place on a larger scale under the new president than under his predecessor. As an example we can mention the cultural, agricultural and information agreements. This line is rejected and condemned by the Palestinian revolution and the Arab nation. It may be said that this is being done to reassure Israel so that it will complete its withdrawal from the Sinai, but this argument is rejected. If we are to believe this so-called change is taking place, we ask Mubarak to fully and decisively abandon the line of President as-Sadat.

VOP REPORTS 'ARAFAT'S INTERVIEW WITH ABC

NC180758 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0650 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, stated that the Palestinian revolution will not violate the cease-fire in southern Lebanon, but at the same time we are expecting an Israeli attack. He described Israeli statements that the Palestinians will violate the cease-fire as another big lie.

In an interview with an American television network, Brother Abu 'Ammar affirmed that the danger comes from the Israelis, who have concentrated three or four divisions in southern Lebanon and imposed a blockade on the Lebanese coast, from Beirut down to southern Lebanon. This is in addition to the continuous threats by the Israeli political and military leaders.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said he believes Egypt will return to the Arab fold after it recovers Sinai from Israel next month. Asked whether it is possible that a time will come when Egypt will become a foe of Israel, he said: This year is very important. The entire political map in the Middle East will be redrawn. He said that the Egyptian masses -- the Egyptian people and army -- will carry out the change. We must not forget that what happened to As-Sadat was not carried out by a small group but by the army -- this heroic army which is close to the Palestinian people.

Asked whether the Camp David process has died, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: Certainly. Asked whether there is a need for a new initiative in the Middle East, such as the PLO's recognition of Israel, he said: We are the victims. We insist on not giving up this card to our enemies. He denied allegations that the PLO wants to throw the Jews into the sea. He said: The establishment of a democratic state in which Jews, Muslims and Christians will coexist is the only solution in the long run.

KLIBI: EUROPE WILL LAUNCH MIDEAST INITIATIVE

PM180925 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 12 Mar 82 pp 1, 22

[Lutfi Shalash report from Brussels]

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi yesterday concluded his 3-day official visit to Belgium, during which he held talks with Belgian and EEC officials on Arab-Eruopean relations.

The situation in the Middle East and the fate of the Arab-European dialogue were the two most important topics discussed by Klibi on the one hand, and the Belgian external relations minister and current chairman of the European Council [Leo Tindemans], European Commission President Gaston Thorn and Commissioner for Development Edgard Pisani on the other.

It seems after these talks that the current chairman of the Ten's European Council will embark on a factfinding tour of the Middle East similar to the tours made before him by Gaston Thorn, Christopher van der Clauw and Lord Carrington. This new tour is not expected to begin before 25 April, the date of Israel's final withdrawal from Sinai. Klibi's talks in Brussels covered most aspects of the Middle East situation, including the Palestine question, the return of Sinai to Egypt, the participation of four EEC states in the Sinai Multinational Force, President Husni Mubarak's new policy, French President Mitterrand's visit to occupied Palestine, and revival of the Arab-European dialogue.

Klibi has told AL-JAZIRAH that his visit to Brussels was arranged before the recent developments and that it falls within the framework of the Arab moves at all levels to block the exploitation of any situation by the enemy. He added that one of the most important results of the visit is that he secured a promise that Europe would launch an initiative on the Middle East conflict.

Klibi also said that he asked the Ten not to confine their contribution to a mere declaration of principles but to work for the implementation of these principles. He noted that Europe must play a part, even if it is a limited one, to get the United States to understand the situation as it really is, so that it is not misled by the Israelis. He added: If oil is Europe's only reason for the Arab-European dialogue, Europe will not do us any good and we do not need it.

The Arab League Secretary general told AL-JAZIRAH in Brussels that his talks with European officials also dealt with President Mitterrand's visit to Israel. He said he made some observations regarding the visit and President Mitterrand's Knesset speech. These, he said, constitute a serious retreat from France's previous position on the conflict. There are numerous signs of this retreat, he said, the most important of which is Mitterrand's statement that the matter should be left to the parties concerned in the region to deal with, without any foreign intervention. Klibi added that the French president made this call while knowing full well that Israel flouts UN resolutions and is not really interested in peace except on its own terms. The French position, he said, is in fact a violation of UN Resolution 242, which defined the borders as being the pre-1967 war borders. The French president, he said, wants the matter left to the parties concerned, in other words at Israel's mercy.

Klibi rejected the claim that Europe cannot play any role in the conflict because it is not a superpower. He added that Euorpe can, if it wishes, play a part and its claim that it cannot is unacceptable and is in fact an obvious attempt to shun its responsibility. In this case, he said, the excuse is worse than the crime.

BRIEFS

ARAB OIL INVESTMENT -- Investment by Arab oil countries reached $158 billion dollars during the 1970's. These countries are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Libya and the UAE. This came in a report by the Secretariat of the Arab League, the Arab Monetary Fund and the Arab economic fund. The report indicated that investments in the Arab world during the 1970's totalled $338 billion dollars. Of this figure, 16 percent was for the period 1970-75 and the rest was during 1975-1980. Of these investments 47 percent were in oil companies, 22 percent in Algeria and Iraq, 5 percent in less developed countries and 26 percent in countries which have financial deficits. [Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 12 Mar 82 p 2 GF]

OMAN

MINISTER COMMENTS ON PDRY, EGYPT, GCC ISSUES

GF170700 Ad-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 13 Mar 82

[Interview granted by Yusuf al-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, to AL-YAWM correspondent Ya'qub Zuhayr "during the GCC Ministerial Council meeting in Riyadh"]

[Text] [Question] Answering a question about Oman's view of the current military presence in the region and his country's conception of Gulf military cooperation, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs said:

[Answer] This presence is there in a general and massive way. We believe it makes the situation more tense and thus one of the most sensitive regions in the world, As for Oman's views within the GCC, it feels it is necessary to develop a defensive strength for the GCC member countries themselves.

The Omani minister added that the formation of this force has met with various reactions from different foreign countries. At a time when the Western countries welcome and show interest in the idea of developing the GCC's intrinsic strength, we see the Soviet Union and the socialist countries allied to the Soviet Union, whether they be in or outside of the region, opposed to it. This opposition can be traced to their view that our desire to develop our own defensive strength will undoubtedly create a situation which will prevent them from stirring up trouble and creating instability in our region.

[Question] Answering a question about the report that Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain had presented a working paper to the latest meeting of the Ministerial Council concerning their conception of the military question, the Omani minister said:

[Answer] Actually, we have not presented any working paper conveying our conception of the military situation in the Gulf other than the security working paper which we presented at the previous meetings.

The minister added that the military issues as a whole are currently being dealt with by the defense ministers and the chiefs of staff at the request of their majesties and highnesses, the leaders of the Gulf countries. He added that the defense ministers and the chiefs of staff are still studying the various defensive situations of the member countries. We hope the defense ministers and chiefs of staff will prepare a comprehensive plan for the next Gulf summit, which is expected to convene in November, so conclusions can be reached concerning it.

[Question] AL-YAWM has learned that Oman, through its unequivocal Gulf cooperation, has decided to cancel entry visas for GCC nationals. Commenting on this, the Omani minister said:

[Answer] This issue was discussed during the meetings of the interior ministers. Many resolutions were adopted by the GCC members on this issue. There are measures that will be adopted to facilitate the movement of GCC nationals.

[Question] Will the measures to be taken mean the abolition of the entry visas needed by GCC nationals?

[Answer] This issue is still under discussion due to some security issues pertaining to the Sultanate of Oman. Certain measures and arrangements have been adopted by Oman on this issue. Due to other reasons, including problems which affect Gulf passports, and the high density of foreign labor in the Gulf region, the Gulf countries must collectively study this issue in order to ultimately facilitate movement by GCC nationals among the GCC countries by abolishing entry visas for GCC nationals.

[Question] Diplomatic sources have reported that the mediation efforts being exerted by the UAE and Kuwait to resolve the existing disputes between the PDRY and Oman have achieved some progress. How true is this?

[Answer] Efforts by the UAE and Kuwait are continuing but no agreement has yet been reached on the differences between us and the PDRY. These efforts will continue. We in Oman hope that circumstances, particularly the PDRY's internal situation, will enable them [PDRY officials] to understand the new facts that have arisen since the establishment of the GCC.

[Question] Many observers believe the differences between Muscat and Aden have external sources and if the two parties would sit down and discuss them, they would be resolved without mediation from other parties. Does the sultanate have any specific conditions for negotiating these differences with the PDRY?

[Answer] We do not have any conditions. Therefore, we can call them conditions. [sentence as published] Nevertheless, it is well known that in the past the PDRY has interfered in the sultanate's internal affairs by aiding and providing refuge to saboteurs and by granting them opportunities and facilities to use PDRY territory to carry out acts detrimental to the sultanate.

Our sole condition is that it cease its interference in our internal affairs. If this condition is met then it is possible to have relations between us and the PDRY. We do not want the PDRY to change its strategic, political and ideological line because this is its concern and the concern of its people only. We only want it to stop interferring in our internal affairs.

[Question] Oman enjoys distinctive relations with Egypt since Oman did not break diplomatic relations with Egypt after As-Sadat's visit to Tel Aviv [as published] and his signing of the Camp David agreement which was the reason for severance of Arab relations with Egypt. In the framework of these distinctive relations, President Husni Mubarak visited Oman at a time when the new Egyptian president was making some gestures which observers considered positive ones in bringing Egypt back in the Arab ranks. What about that visit and what were the consultations that were held between the Egyptian president and His Majesty Sultan Qabus?

[Answer] President Husni Mubarak's visit to Oman was within the framework of relations between us and Egypt and within the framework of consultations between President Husni Mubarak and His Majesty Sultan Qabus. During this visit views were exchanged on various issues pertaining to the Middle East region and on Omani-Egyptian relations.

[Question] On the basis of its distinctive relations, will Oman be able to play any role in normalizing inter-Arab relations?

[Answer] In fact, there is no proposed plan for bringing Egypt back to the Arab ranks. However, there is a desire by various parties to create a kind of channel between Egypt and the Arab countries. If this desire to restore Egypt to the Arab ranks is officially conveyed to Oman, we will not hesitate to exert every effort for this purpose out of our belief in the need to achieve Arab solidarity. Our present stand and our distinctive relations with Egypt and many Arab countries will probably help us to create some relations which will achieve Arab solidarity and consequently bring Egypt back to the Arab ranks.

[Question] On the GCC and its relations with the West and the East, our question to the minister was about the distinctive relations which the GCC members have with the East and the West and about the possibility and the method through which we can benefit from these relations in the service of our national issues. The Omani foreign minister said:

[Answer] Coordination among the Gulf countries, many of which have varying levels of relations with many Eastern and Western countries, must continue because it will ultimately serve the GCC countries' common interests. I believe the best way is to continue these relations and strengthen coordination with various countries to serve mutual interests.

[Question] We asked the Omani minister for an explanation on whether this means establishing relations with the Eastern bloc either through Oman -- which has relations with the PRC -- or through Kuwait -- which also has relations with the Soviet Union. His excellency said:

[Answer] In our view, the issue of establishing relations with the Eastern bloc in the current stage is completely ruled out because of sound reasons, foremost and strongest of which is the continued Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the support of the countries of the communist bloc for this occupation. Of course, this situation does not encourage the establishment of any relations with the communist countries. Indeed the situation does not even encourage us to think of establishing such relations.

TUNISIA AGREES TO EXCHANGE VOCATIONAL EXPERTISE

GF181036 Doha QNA in Arabic 0850 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Muscat, 18 Mar (ONA) -- An agreement was initialed in Muscat today between the Omani and Tunisian Governments. The agreement will provide for the expansion of bilateral relations with regard to the exchange of technical and vocational expertise, social affairs and vocational training.

The agreement will provide for bilateral cooperation in coordinating, organizing and expediting the exchange of qualifications, expertise and information in social affairs of expertise and training programs in order to increase the qualifications of trainees and exchange experience in social affairs and vocational training.

The agreement calls for the formation of a three-member committee that will follow up the implementation of the agreement. This committee will convene once a year.

The agreement was signed for Oman by Yahya Mahfuz al-Mundhuri, minister of education and acting minister of labor and social affairs, and for Tunisia by Mohamed Ennaceur, minister of social affairs, who is currently visiting Oman.

The Tunisian minister arrived in Muscat last Saturday [13 March] on a 5-day visit to Oman.

SAUDIA ARABIA

JOINT STATEMENT ON NIGER PRESIDENT'S VISIT

LD171424 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1103 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 17 Mar (SPA) -- Here is the text of the joint Saudi-Niger statement issued following the visit of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Niger Seyni Kountche:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

In response to an invitation by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to His Excellency President Seyni Kountche, president of the Republic of Niger, his excellency paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 14 to 16 March 1982.

His excellency the president of Niger was accorded a warm welcome by the Saudi Government and people which expressed the depth of the cordial relations between the two sister Muslim countries. The two sides held talks manifesting a spirit of friendship and understanding and dealt with topics of mutual interest, especially the common interest in strengthening Islamic solidarity, Arab-African cooperation and conditions in the Middle East and Africa. They also dealt with bilateral relations and efforts to strengthen them for the good of the two peoples and the two countries. The talks were headed by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and His Excellency President Seyni Kountche.

Taking part in the talks on the Saudi side were His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of national guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general of the army; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; and Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman Al ash-Shaykh, minister of agriculture and water and escort; Shaykh Rashad Nawaylati, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Niger; and Ambassador 'Abbas Fa'iq Ghazzawi, head of the Asia and Africa departments at the Foreign Ministry. The following took part on the Niger side: Planning Minister Brah Mamane, Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Daouda Diallo, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Abdou Mallam Moussa and Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Salifou Soumaila.

The two leaders expressed their pleasure and satisfaction at the appreciable development in bilateral relations. They also expressed their determination to work to further strengthen relations in all spheres.

The two sides discussed issues of joint cooperation internationally, especially Arab-African cooperation and Islamic solidarity. The two sides expressed the hope that deliberations of the 13th conference of Islamic foreign ministers, to be held in Niamey at the beginning of June, will be a success in view of the importance of the items on its agenda and the important historic phase through which the Islamic world is passing today.

His excellency the president praised the establishment of the GCC and its achievements since it was set up, after hearing an explanation by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz about the aims of the heads of the member states of the council. His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz listened to detailed explanations about conditions in Western Africa and the strange movements that have occurred and are occurring in and around it aimed at disturbing the security of the region and dominating the resources of its peoples. The two sides expressed the hope that security and stability will [word indistinct] in the region. His majesty also expressed his appreciation for the efforts in this respect by President Kountche.

The two sides discussed th Middle East question and the latest developments in that arena. They stressed their condemnation of Israeli aggressive actions and the Israeli settlement colonialism. They stressed their insistence that Israel withdraw from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, particularly holy Jerusalem, and that the Palestinian people be granted their legitimate rights, especially their rights to return to their homeland, to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. The two leaders also stressed their condemnation and denunciation of Israeli aggressive actions in southern Lebanon and strongly condemned the Israeli moves to annex holy Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, considering these decisions null and void, condemned by the international community and rejected and denounced by all international authorities and organizations. They called for the application of the sanctions to Israel provided for by international laws and approved by the UN General Assembly in its latest session.

His excellency the president expressed his country's absolute support for the eight-point peace plan, considering it a constructive initiative aimed at achieving peace based on justice and enjoying the support of the majority of the countries of the world. The two sides also condemned the Israeli attempts to restore diplomatic relations with African states, attempts bent on weakening the joint Arab-African struggle against Zionism and racial discrimination in southern Africa. The two leaders expressed their denunciation and condemnation of Soviet aggression against the Muslim Afghan people and demanded the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan to enable the people of Afghanistan to decide for themselves the type of rule they want, without external pressure or intervention, to pave the way for the return of the Afghan refugees to their country, to achieve justice and security for all peoples and to maintain stability and peace.

The two sides reviewed the situation in Chad and expressed their support for the efforts of the OAU there. They also expressed the hope that peace will soon be established in Chad.

The two leaders stressed that they support African liberation causes and will work to assist the African regions that are still under the domination of colonialism and racism, especially Namibia, and to support it in its just struggle for independence. They also expressed their anxiety at the presence of military bases in the African continent, a situation that threatens the security of Africa and drags it into international conflicts. They stressed their belief that the foreign bases must be removed so that security, peace and stability may prevail in Africa and so that the African peoples may prevail in Africa and so that the African peoples may be able to cultivate their potential and develop and exploit their economic resources in order to achieve prosperity and well-being.

His Excellency President Kountche expressed his gratitude and that of the accompanying delegation to His Majesty King Kahlid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, his government and the Saudi people for their fraternal welcome and generous hospitality. His excellency extended an invitation to His Majesty King Khalid to pay a visit to Niger. His majesty accepted the invitation and it has been agreed that the date will be decided later.

RADIO CALLS FOR U.S. AID TO AFGHAN NATION

GF151354 Jidda International Service in Turkmen 1500 MGT 14 Mar 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] [passage indistinct] 1 March as the day of solidarity with the Afghan people. European countries immediately announced their support for the decision by the United States. At the same time the United States announced that the Afghan flag would be (?printed on stamps).

We hail this humanitarian stand by the United States and the just (?response) of European countries with respect and reverence. We also bless this move and express our gratitude. We take this humanitarian decision by the United States and Europe as (?an indication of the awakening of) the conscience of the people of the world. This is because developments in the world (?have suppressed the conscience and humanitarian sentiments) in the people. However, it is our hope that 1 March, which has been declared as (?a day to remember) Afghan martyrs and our suffering Afghan brothers, will not merely be one of propaganda. Neither the United States nor Europe has extended aid to Afghanistan. The noble Afghan nation does not need [words indistinct]. Arms and food are what they need. Pakistan has [words indistinct] because of the war in Afghanistan. Pakistan has extended hospitality to millions of distinguished refugees from Afghanistan and dried their tears. However, neither the United States nor the European countries has shown any interest in all this. Neither has given aid to Pakistan to help it overcome its economic difficulties arising from the Afghan problem. True solidarity requires aid to the Afghan nation in every possible way until this nation achieves victory in its struggle against the profane actions and cruelty of the communists.

The heroic and true Muslim Afghan nation is waging a struggle alone against the second superpower in the world. This power is [word indistinct]. The heroic Afghan nation is standing against this superpower with (?obsolete arms) and perseveringly struggling with great courage against [words indistinct] and profane actions.

It is common knowledge that for the past 20 years the United States has been aware that the communists have been encroaching on Afghanistan. What has the United States done against this state of affairs? Ever since the Soviet Army established a link between Moscow and Kabul, the United States has offered the Afghan nation to the Soviet Union on a silver platter.

Let us ask a sincere question: What has the United States done for the Afghan nation? Printing the Afghan flag on (?stamps) and [words indistinct] does not contribute to the Afghan mujahidin's struggle against the invaders. They will not be useful in restoring the rights, freedom and liberty of the Afghan people which have been usurped. Insofar as the Afghan people and other Muslims are concerned, 1 March is no different from any other day. If this day is to have any significance, and if it is to enter history, the United States and other countries have to extend true and substantial aid to the Afghan nation [words indistinct] and to Pakistan, which has been extending humanitarian aid to the Afghan refugees.

PLANNING MINISTER IN ARGENTINA ON OFFICIAL VISIT

For Argentine press agency coverage of Saudi Planning Minister Hisham Muhyi ad-Din Nazir's arrival in Argentina and his statements at a press conference upon his departure, see the Argentina section of the 16 March Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

UAE

U.S. TALK OF INTERNAL THREATS TO GULF CRITICIZED

GF141236 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0640 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Mar (WAM) -- The newspapers AL-KHALIJ and AL-BAYAN have strongly criticized the statements by the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense, [Francis West], yesterday in which he claimed that "internal sabotage by radical powers represents a direct threat to the Gulf."

The two newspapers mock the Americans' insistence on talking about imaginary threats to the region in order to justify their intentions of intervening and imposing their domination on it, a matter which the countries of the region regard as blatant interference in their affairs.

The two newspapers note the Gulf countries' rejection of the "imposed" U.S. protection and emphasized that the claims which Francis West made in the U.S. Congress yesterday are "a continuation of a categorically rejected previous stand."

Under the headline "The U.S. Police in the Region," the Ash-Shariqah newspaper AL-KHALIJ says the U.S. war apparatus has started to talk about the radical powers' threat after failing to exploit claims on an expected Soviet invasion." These claims have lost their luster for the Arab people of the Gulf, who are now certain that the real threat against their stability and security is Israel."

The newspaper says that the United States is seeking a pretext to intervene "and that the powers, which the U.S. regards as radical powers -- and the Gulf regards as national powers -- really represent a threat to the plots of U.S. intervention and influence and to the plundering of the region's wealth."

The paper adds: "By intimidating the Gulf countries with these national powers under another pretense, calling them Moscow's agents, the United States wants to blackmail the Gulf countries."

The paper points out that the U.S. talk about the threat of the radical or national powers comes from anxiety over Israel and its continued aggression, over U.S. interests and the interests of other countries, and over plans to impose U.S. economic, cultural and political hegemony.

AL-KHALIJ says: "The Arab people in the Gulf do not want to be involved in international conflicts and have rejected security guardianship in any form whatsoever. Amidst our national struggle to return the occupied Arab territories and preserve national sovereignty, the Arab people will resist Washington's attempts to provoke internal sedition under the pretense of the threats by internal national powers."

Under the headline "Another Rejected Justification," the Dubayy newspaper AL-BAYAN says the formation of the Rapid Deployment Force as part of its world strategy is a matter that concerns the United States, "but to announce or imply that the task of this force is to protect the Gulf from external threats is a thing which the Gulf countries have categorically rejected."

The newspaper continues: "From this principle, we regard the assistant U.S. secretary of defense's statement on the amendment of the Rapid Deployment Force's task to include intervention in case of internal sabotage by radical powers to be a continuation of a previous stand which was categorically rejected."

The newspaper emphasized that "the internal situation in the Gulf region's countries is so stable and solid that any possibility of internal sabotage on the level which the United States wants to use as an additional pretext to justify intervention is ruled out."

AL-BAYAN says: "If Washington is interested in warding off the Soviet threat and what it calls internal sabotage, which it terms as grave as the Soviet threat, the road to achieve this is to respect the independence and sovereignty of the concerned countries and to participate in achieving a just peace in the Middle East in the interest of these countries and their future."

DAILY CALLS FOR RESTORATION OF OIL WEAPON

GF150550 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 12 Mar 82 p 1

[Editorial: "What Is Better Than Angry Cries"]

[Excerpts] U.S. President Reagan's decision to embargo Libyan oil and halt exportation of oil and gas equipment to Libya reflects both the overall Arab situation and the Arab oil situation.

Had it not been for the U.S. President's assurance that Arab discord and fragmentation keep every Arab country busy with restricted regional problems and prevent the adoption of a collective Arab stand to counter this hostile U.S. policy development the Reagan administration's departments and advisers would have advised against such a decision.

Had it not been for the absence of Arab solidarity, and consequently the absence of a unified oil policy which would maintain the strategic value of Arab oil and maintain a balance between the export and financial requirements of each oil-producing country, oil would not have poured into the international market without limit and allowed the United States, Western Europe and Japan to store up reserves of up to 150 days and to then use this "strategic storage" to launch a counterattack against the oil-producing countries in order to put pressure on their prices and revenues and to disarm the Arabs of the oil weapon and use this weapon against them.

This is not the only proof of U.S. bias for the Israeli enemy. It is not the only evidence that the U.S. strengthens that enemy with the most advanced weapons in order to maintain its military superiority. All of the Arabs realized this fact long ago.

In using the oil weapon today, President Reagan has inadvertently alerted the Arab individual to the seriousness of the Arab situation and the danger of Arab oil surplus.

Certainly, had it not been for the oil glut in the international market and the opportunity to fill the giant tankers and reservoirs, the United States wouldn't have snatched the oil weapon from the Arabs.

If the United States has allowed itself to use this weapon against the weapon's owners, then the "owners" should be able to use it first. But how can this be achieved?

First, the Arabs should rise to the challenges posed to the Arab nation. This simply means it is necessary to discard disagreements and to give precedence to Arab solidarity because the absence of Arab solidarity is the major culprit for all the tragedies that have befallen the Arabs and is responsible for all the threats to everyone.

Second, the Arabs should underline the necessity of controlling oil production, otherwise the Arab nation will be left without the only strategic value it has.

Although the oil surplus in the international market seems to be troubled, a courageous Arab decision on controlling production according to need will rectify many situations and restore the oil weapon to the Arab nation -- that weapon which is most needed now and in the future.

PETROLEUM MINISTER: OPEC MUST CONTROL PRICES

GF171410 Doha QNA in Arabic 1142 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Beirut, 17 Mar (QNA) -- Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, current OPEC chairman and UAE petroleum and natural resources minister, announced that there is a plan to upset oil prices and consequently destroy OPEC. He added: Pricing must remain under OPEC's control. He warned that if this gets out of control then this means the end of OPEC.

In an interview granted to Lebanese magazine AS-SAYYAD published today, he referred to the drop in oil prices below the price fixed by OPEC, which is $34 a barrel. He said this price should be maintained because "we are cornered" and we have to do what we can to maintain the price. He stressed that the only way to achieve this is by reducing production regardless of sacrifices. He pointed out that this will be in the interest of everybody in the long run. This will be in the interest of the oil exporting and consuming countries, as well as the companies and humanity as a whole. He emphasized that reduction of prices as some wish will not lead to solving the problem or achieving gains, because it will not lead to more demand.

Answering a question on the causes of the drop in oil prices, he noted that oil consumption is currently more than the demand, due to the fact that oil companies sell their oil stock in the markets. He also noted that at the beginning of this year, the oil stock of the industrial countries was adequate for 120 days, but this dropped to a quantity adequate for only 108 days.

YAR

DNF SAM'S FROM LIBYA, PDRY DOWN YAR PLANES

JN171752 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] The opposition Democratic National Front [DNF] in the YAR possesses surface-to-air antiaircraft missiles which it has obtained from Libya and the PDRY, says the Beirut daily AN-NAHAR which in turn quotes Arab diplomatic sources in Beirut.

According to these sources, the raging battles in the YAR and on the YAR-PDRY border are escalating and the DNF forces have shot down two fighter planes for the YAR regular forces. One of the planes was an FE-2 and the other an F-5.

Yesterday, the YAR authorities asserted that armed elements tried to enter YAR territory to carry out sabotage but were crushed by government forces.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM USSR LEADERS

JN171737 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, this afternoon received the USSR ambassador in San'a', [name indistinct] who conveyed to the brother leader president a message from the USSR leaders dealing with bilateral relations.

LOSONCZI INVITES PRESIDENT TO VISIT HUNGARY

JN131301 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, today received a written message from Pal Losonczi, president of the Hungarian Presidential Council.

A SABA' News Agency correspondent has learned that the message contained an official invitation to the president to visit the Hungarian People's Republic and that the president leader has graciously accepted it.

CONTINUED REPORTAGE ON TEL AVIV CONFERENCE

'Ali, Sharon Press Conference

NC171707 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Tel Aviv, 17 Mar (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that the discussions he held during his visit to Israel were constructive.

At a joint press conference with Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon at Tel Aviv airport after concluding their talks today, 'Ali said: I believe that, through discussion, we always overcome the problems that emerge from time to time on subjects related to Egypt's taking over the remaining part of the Sinai.

He added: During this visit, we had two problems. The first was connected with Rafah. We have agreed on everything related to the borders at that point and there is no dispute about it. We have formed a subcommittee to work out the details on demarcation of the border without causing any harm to the citizens. They will complete doing so within days. The second subject is related to the demarcation of the Tabah area border. We exchanged views on this matter and further discussions will take place on this subject during the meeting of the higher joint committee in Cairo in the coming days.

Ari'el Sharon announced at the press conference that there is no problem with regard to the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel.

He said that there is a point connected with the demarcation of the borders south of Elat at Tabah on which proposals have been made. Each of us will discuss these proposals with his government, and we hope to meet before the end of this month or at the beginning of next month to resolve the issue.

He added that there is no problem with regard to the demarcation of the borders at Rafah.

Replying to a question addressed to 'Ali and Sharon on whether they are at all worried, the Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: On my behalf and on behalf of Sharon, "We are not worried," and we have been able to solve most of the problems during the past years and we can solve our problems in the future. All we seek is to establish a strong beginning for our future relations. There might be some points which must be resolved so that the beginning will continue to be strong.

'Ali added: Yesterday, we agreed with Yitzhaq Shamir on holding periodic meetings at ministerial level between the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers every 3 months to review and strengthen the relations between us. We believe that this is something good. Sharon commented by saying: We are not worried about the future of the relations between our two countries.

'Ali answered a question about President Husni Mubarak's visit to Israel. He said: Yesterday, I conveyed an oral message from President Mubarak to Begin concerning the subject of the visit. Begin has also renewed the invitation extended to the president. However, as far as the date and itinerary of the visit are concerned, these will be discussed in the future.

In reply to a question about whether he believed it is likely President Mubarak will make his visit to Israel prior to 25 April, 'Ali said that the visit will take place at the time which will prove convenient for President Mubarak -- and this matter has been agreed upon.

Answering a question about the multinational force which will take up positions along the international border between Egypt and Israel, Sharon said; They are part of the peace agreement concluded between the two countries. The multinational force will arrive according to a timetable, and Egypt and we welcome it. We are certain that this force will work for peace between our two countries.

Sharon was asked about the problems which are still pending concerning the boundary and whether these problems will hinder the withdrawal on schedule. He said: I believe that you have clearly heard here that we have discussed the border problem. Furthermore, we will discuss the various proposals on the border problem with our two governments. We hope that we will achieve an agreement at our coming meeting in Cairo. It is still early to hand down a verdict on anything.

At this point, the same newsman asked: Therefore, if you will not reach an agreement, what will be the result? Sharon answered him: Why do you say "if we will not reach an agreement?" We will explore all solutions -- and we have previously ironed out numerous differences, and we will find a solution for every problem.

'Ali commented: We have at our disposal the Egyptian-Israeli treaty -- and we all adhere to implementation of its contents. It includes all the viewpoints which we exchanged yesterday. Therefore, we hope to achieve an agreement within the context of this treaty.

'Ali Remarks on Talks

NC171642 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1252 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Tel Aviv, 17 Mar (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that immediately on his return to Cairo this afternoon he will submit a report to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the discussions he held with the Israeli officials and the meetings of the fourth session of the joint supreme committee concerned with Egypt's takeover of the remaining part of the Sinai.

'Ali added: The arrangements related to Israel's withdrawal have been going on for a long time. There are 80 technicians in the southern Sinai now to take over and operate the installations there. Some of these installations were brought for the sum of 16.5 million pounds.

'Ali went on: A part of the multinational force will arrive in the Sinai today to assume its duties there. The remaining part of this force will arrive on 23 March to be ready to assume its responsibilities as of 25 April.

Concerning what has taken place at the supreme committee's fourth session in Israel, 'Ali said that he discussed the best ways for solving the border problems, including two very important points. The first point relates to Rafah and how the international border could be defined and demarcated and the border demarcation lines be set up without harming the interests of the Egyptian or Palestinian inhabitants of the area. [second point not provided]

'Ali said that it has been agreed to form a joint subcommittee to discuss these issues and that it will meet immediately within the framework of the joint military committee. He reaffirmed that there were no problems regarding Rafah.

'Ali added that a technical difference still exists regarding Tabah but that there were no political differences. He pointed out that 91 border points between the Egyptian side and the Israeli side [of the border] have existed since 1906 and that all but 15 points have been reestablished. There is a disagreement on points ranging between 90 centimeters and 1 meter and between 1 kilometer and 20 meters near Tabah.

We presented some ideas during our meeting with Begin and the Israeli defense minister yesterday. The Israeli side presented other ideas, but we did not reach an agreement. We submit these ideas again at the forthcoming meeting of the joint supreme committee which will convene under my chairmanship and that of Sharon in the first week of April.

'Ali further said: All we hope is that the withdrawal will be completed according to a specific agreement. This is what we are working toward. If no specific agreement is reached, then a search must be made for a specific measure which would guarantee Egypt's rights and borders. We must also agree on the implementation of the [Egyptian-Israeli peace] treaty, which in Article 7 stipulates that in the case of a legal or procedural disagreement, there should be a resort to negotiations and, when we have exhausted this, then to arbitration and documentation [wa at-tawthiq].

'Ali went on: The technical disagreement on this point is clear. A formula must be found to resolve this issue because we do not want any flaws in the future relations between us and Israel. We also do not want the normalization to start with disagreement.

Answering a question, 'Ali said that the Israeli side refuses arbitration. He added: Before reaching an agreement on the 15 disputed points, we must reach a decision on how to solve the problem.

Concerning the autonomy negotiations, 'Ali said that the U.S. partner in the autonomy negotiations has asked that a meeting of the autonomy technical committees be held in Washington on 21 March for various reasons. Egypt has approved this but Israel notified us yesterday that it does not favor this idea.

'Ali added that, in view of this, contacts will be held among the three parties -- Egypt, Israel and the United States -- in the next few days to agree on the date and venue of these meetings.

In conclusion, 'Ali said that Israel Prime Minister Menahem Begin suggested that negotiations be stepped up by holding a ministerial level meeting embracing Egypt, the United States and Israel. He said: This suggestion will be a subject of discussion, especially with the third party -- the United States.

'Ali Returns to Cairo

NC171320 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] The Egyptian delegation headed by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Cairo this afternoon after attending the meetings of the higher committee for withdrawal from Sinai and conveying an oral message from President Husni Mubarak to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin. 'Ali and Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon held a press conference at the airport before 'Ali's departure.

Cairo Statement

NC171621 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Upon his return from Israel, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali announced that two basic subjects had been discussed in the course of the talks which he held in Israel.

[Begin recording 'Ali statement] In fact, the meetings have this time dealt with two principal subjects -- first, the subject related to the demarcation of the boundary in Rafah. In this area, it has been possible to achieve an agreement on principles concerning the border demarcation, so that the residents whether Egyptians or Palestinians, will not be harmed in the city of Rafah itself. In this respect, agreement has been reached on formation of a joint committee to discuss all the details connected with the implementation of this proposal.

On the second subject, namely the demarcation of the remaining contested border points -- some 15 points -- agreement has been reached on continuing with the discussions. Some Egyptian and Israeli viewpoints on possible solutions have been reviewed. It has been agreed to continue with the discussions within the framework of the higher committee within the next few days. [end recording]

'Ali added that contacts have been held to convene a new session of the autonomy negotiations on a ministerial level to generate momentum for these negotiations.

He said: The day of 25 April is not an objective for bringing the autonomy negotiations to their conclusion.

'Ali said that he conveyed an oral message to Menahem Begin from President Husni Mubarak and that the Israeli prime minister renewed the invitation to President Mubarak to visit Israel. Views were also exchanged at the meeting on the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai and the problems related to the border.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: The opening of consulates in Egypt and Israel is a measure upon which a prior agreement exists, and this agreement is aimed at activating tourism between the two countries.

'Ali said in concluding his statement: A U.S. battalion arrived today in the Sinai to contribute to the multinational force, which will supervise the boundary between Egypt and Israel following the completion of the Israeli withdrawal. Furthermore, units drawn from the various states participating in the force have arrived in the Al-Jurah airport. He added: All the details relevant to the force's operation have already been agreed upon. Therefore, these details have not been discussed in the talks recently held in Israel.

Committee To Be Dissolved

NC171744 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Tel Aviv, 17 Mar (MENA) -- It has been decided that the Foreign Ministries of Egypt and Israel will take over the task of the supreme committee for withdrawal when its duties are terminated in April. A periodic meeting will be held once every 3 months between the foreign ministers of the two countries to discuss the issues and problems pertaining to bilateral relations.

Ghali Meets Israeli Leaders

NC171628 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Tel Aviv, 17 Mar (MENA) -- Before leaving Tel Aviv today, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali met with former Israeli Army Chief of Staff Gen Hayim Bar-Lev. He also met with Israeli opposition Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres and with former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban.

The discussions during the three meetings dealt with the importance of giving momentum to the peace process the autonomy talks and the bilateral relations between Egypt and Israel.

Ghali on Talks Venue

NC172134 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Minister of State of Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has made a statement to the radio correspondent in which he answered a question about whether the Israeli delegation had raised, at the recent talks, the idea of holding the autonomy talks in Jerusalem. Dr Ghali answered that this is not a new idea and that the Israeli delegation had previously asked that the talks be held in Jerusalem. Dr Ghali stated that Egypt holds the view that it is not the venue of the talks which counts. However, importance resides in the continuation of the negotiations to achieve the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to full autonomy and to realize this goal.

Ghali Talks to LE MATIN

NC171524 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1304 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Paris, 17 Mar (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has emphasized that he is certain that the date 25 April will be honored by the Israelis and that they will withdraw on schedule from the Egyptian territory of the Sinai.

In an interview given to the French newspaper LE MATIN, published today, Dr Butrus Ghali also emphasized that Egypt, for its part, will also respect the peace agreements. The normalization process will continue after 26 April just as it has proceeded before that date and that no change will take place. He expressed his optimism about the Egyptian-Israeli relations in the near future.

Dr Butrus Ghali said in this respect that Egypt, by maintaining perfectly good relations with Israel and, at the same time, with the Arab states, can play a moderating role in achieving a comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis.

Dr Butrus Ghali expressed the hope that the return of the Sinai -- a matter which is regarded as "a diplomatic success" -- will be advantageous in giving new momentum towards the future establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza area or for comprehensive negotiations through the participation of other Arab states in the peace process.

He explained in this regard that Egypt, by this diplomatic success, might prove to the other Arab states that they can achieve through negotiations what they could not achieve through military confrontations. He pointed out that the aim of Egyptian diplomacy is to avoid achieving a partial agreement with Israel.

In reply to a question, Dr Butrus Ghali reaffirmed that Egypt does not wish to play any role in the interest of either of the two superpowers and that Egypt is a nonaligned state. He added that Egypt has no intention of establishing special relations with Israel before a comprehensive solution is achieved and that Egypt's relations with Israel will be "normal relations."

The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs praised Egyptian-French relations, describing them as excellent. He expressed the hope of seeing France play a role within the context of a settlement of the Middle East crisis, either directly or with the help of the 10 European states.

AL-AHRAM COMMENTARY VIEWS U.S. BAN ON LIBYAN OIL

PM161651 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Mar 82 p 7

[Salah Muntasir Article: "A Message to all Arabs: Goodbye to the Oil Weapon"]

[Excerpts] Have the Arabs understood Washington's message to them via Libya last week?

Apparently President Reagan had had enough of the terrorism being perpetrated by Colonel [al-Qadhdhafi] and so decided to act as the president of a superpower and to punish the colonel. He signed an order banning the purchase of Libyan oil.

What is interesting here is that Libyan terror is not something new, meaning that Washington heard about it only recently and decided to respond to it. What is new and what we should note -- and this is the essence of the whole issue -- is that for the first time in 30 years, or to be precise since Dr Mossadeq nationalized Iran's oil, an importing country is boycotting an oil-exporting country, which is of great and serious significance.

Some 30 years ago, when Iran nationalized its oil, the consuming countries decided to boycott its oil and so Iran was brought to its knees. Not since then have we heard of an importing country boycotting an oil-exporting country. On the contrary, in the 1973 war it was the exporting countries that punished the importing countries and forced them to close hundreds of factories and to make thousands of workers redundant, upon which the Western people awoke to the fact that the jugular of their economy and their progress was in the grip of the Arab oil companies.

Then the Western economy raised the white flag of surrender and the whole world -- big and small -- bowed low before the Arab emperors, who reeked with the smell of oil.

But, as the song says, times have changed. The change came faster than imagined and for the first time now we are hearing of an importing country punishing an oil-exporting country and boycotting its oil.

What is strange is that this should happen at a time when war has been raging for 18 months between the world's second and third oil-exporting countries, which because of the state of war have been forced to close their oilfields and produce only 1/6 of their prewar output.

What does this mean?

The decision taken by the United States against Libya at a time when Iraq and Iran are at each other's throats is in fact a message indirectly addressed to all the Arabs which in essence says: "Open your eyes and see what is happening so you realize that everything has changed. You Arabs are no longer emperors and stars of the oil market who can talk of a weapon whereby you can mete out punishment against whoever you wish whenever you desire. Goodbye to your oil weapon. Wake up, what you say in the market no longer goes!"

Libyan terror, as I said, is not new. Washington's stories of Libyan terrorist operations to assassinate senior U.S. officials are not confirmed.

In August last year a clash took place between Libya and the United States which culminated in U.S. fighters downing two Libyan fighters over Libya. And yet Washington did not then take a measure similar to the one it has taken now. This is because most probably the present decision is not directed at Libya alone but against all OPEC member states.

We must admit that Washington has chosen the right time. In the past few months the major U.S. oil company, Exxon, has liquidated its operations in Libya and accepted compensation for its installations that is less than they are actually worth.

The world knows that until recently OPEC, which consists of 12 states, had the final say in the oil market. Today OPEC is facing the most difficult and the knottiest problems because of:

The great surplus in the oil market today, which amounts to 2 million barrels per day despite the fact that OPEC has reduced its output from 31 to 20 million barrels per day only.

The horrifying drop in the oil prices which has compelled many countries to auction their oil at prices below the posted price. Today Iran, for example, is groveling to obtain money and so has been forced to reduce its price by $6 per barrel at one go, yet cannot find buyers.

Thus market conditions have become extremely difficult for the oil countries. Egypt itself has also suffered from the situation. Though customers were rushing to buy Gulf of Suez oil at $40 per barrel 2 years ago, Egypt, like all the producing countries, is now trying to sell this oil at $32 per barrel.

This fall in oil prices in the past 2 months is certainly the biggest in their history. Probably the strongest indication of the result of this drop is a financial report which says that during the third quarter of 1981 OPEC countries withdrew $700 million from their deposits in Western banks, while during the same period of 1980 they deposited $11 billion in their accounts.

What has happened in the oil market to produce this serious situation in which the oil-producing countries have lost the imperial throne on which they sat?

Some of what has happened is because of the consuming countries, while some is unfortunately because of the exporting countries themselves.

In the 13 years prior to the 1973 war -- since OPEC was established -- the price of oil increased by only $1 but in 8 years since the war it has increased by $33.

It was natural, in the face of the "craze" that hit the oil-producing countries for increasing their prices, for the consuming countries to try to free themselves from the grip of these countries.

What the OPEC countries failed to note is the need not to whip the world economy into the gutter with the scourge of oil price hikes and the fact that every dollar increase per barrel prompts the consuming countries to search for other energy sources that used to be uneconomic but have become very economic after the price hikes.

The OPEC countries imagined their oil to be the goose that laid the golden eggs and decided to slaughter it without realizing the consequences.

The biggest trap into which the oil-producing countries fell was the ever-widening fields of expenditure which they had to spend more and more to cover, thus they slipped and oil has become a pressure force on them.

The Arabs had hoped that their oil would remain a power for political pressure in their hands and that they would continue to receive suitable prices for it. In fact oil is now being sold at lower prices because of the excesses in killing the goose, and the industrial countries have been able to reduce their energy consumption, thus reducing the growth in annual consumption from 8 percent to only 2 percent.

In view of this change the Arabs have lost their ability to use oil as a weapon. In a market where production exceeds consumption and where oil tankers sail without finding buyers at ports of call, the talk of an oil weapon definitely becomes a joke, unless the Arabs stop all oil production, which is impossible.

FRG ECONOMICS MINISTER CONCLUDES TALKS, DEPARTS

NC161448 Cairo MENA in English 1420 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA) -- West German Minister of Economics Otto Graf Lambsdorff left here this afternoon after a four-day official visit.

Lambsdorff conferred earlier today with Industry Minister Fu'ad Abu Zaghlah on the implementation of the industrial projects being carried out by Germany within the technical and economic cooperation protocol between the two countries at 322 million marks.

The meeting also dealt with the infrastructure projects of the development plan such as the renewal of the factories of the iron and steel company in Hulwan and the easily moulded cast-iron pipes.

Germany agreed to cooperate with Egypt in the field of prospecting mineral wealth such as iron and coal.

ROMANIAN COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER ARRIVES

NC161456 Cairo MENA in English 1300 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA) -- Romanian deputy minister of communications arrived here this afternoon from Bucharest for a week long visit to Egypt for talks with officials of the ministries of industry and communications on bolstering relations between their two countries.

He was welcomed at Cairo international airport by Muhammad ash-Shafi'i, plenipotentiary minister at the Foreign Ministry.

TRADE MINISTER MEETS WITH ROMANIAN COUNTERPART

NC161710 Cairo MENA in English 1625 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA) -- Dr Fu'ad Hashim, minister of economy and foreign trade, conferred here today with the Romanian deputy trade minister on means of promoting bilateral relations and preparations for the meeting of the joint Egyptian-Romanian committee which will be held during the first half of April in Bucharest.

The volume of trade exchange between the two countries amounts to 237 million pounds during the first eleven months of 1981. Some 54 million pounds are Egyptian exports to Romania while 183 million pounds are imports from Romania including cement, wood, papers tractors, fertilizers, and a number of foodstuffs.

The Romanian official arrived here on Friday for a few days visit to Egypt.

MUBARAK MEETS OPPOSITION LABOR PARTY CHIEF

NC171316 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Labor Party Leader Eng Ibrahim Shukri at Al-'Urubah Palace today.

After the meeting, Shukri said that the president is keen on meeting with the opposition and with whomever he can to get their opinion on subjects of public interest. He said that the meeting was within the framework of this tradition which the president is eager to maintain with the opposition parties. We will always give our views on all the questions he asks us. This is in implementation of the president's declaration that a partnership is necessary, and that the responsibility should be shouldered by every Egyptian during these critical circumstances through which the country is passing.

Engineer Shukri said one topic discussed at the meeting was economic problems facing Egypt and the question of increasing agricultural and industrial production as the only way to rectify the economic course.

He added that the discussions also dealt with some important questions related to foreign policy as the evacuation day on 25 April is drawing nearer. He added that Egypt is keen on implementing the peace agreement with Israel and is also keen on not giving up any of its rights. He said: We will all take part in the celebration on 25 April.

LABOR PARTY'S ASH-SHA'B TO RESUME PUBLICATION

NC171258 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) -- The newspaper ASH-SHA'B, which was published by the Socialist Labor Party, will reappear again on 4 May.

This was stated by Labor Party leader Eng Ibrahim Shukri following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today.

Shukri said that the paper will resume publication under the same name.

AL-AHRAM ON AS-SADAT ASSASSINATION MEMORANDUM

NC172238 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) -- The military judiciary department today completed the preparation of the memorandum on the ratification of the verdict passed in the case of the assassination of departed President Anwar as-Sadat preparatory to submitting it to President Husni Mubarak.

In its issue tomorrow, Thursday, AL-AHRAM says Director of the Military Judiciary Department Maj Gen Hamid Hammudah has received the reasons for the verdict from the military court together with the dossier of the case. All objective, procedural and formal aspects of the case were reviewed and the memorandum was prepared to be submitted for President Mubarak's endorsement of the verdict issued in the case.

The accused will be informed about the verdict immediately after it is endorsed. They have the right to submit a petition for reconsideration of the case within 15 days of the date of their notification of the verdict.

The military court sentenced five of the accused to death, five others to life imprisonment at hard labor, eight to 15 years imprisonment, three to 10 years imprisonment at hard labor and one to 5 years imprisonment at hard labor. It acquitted two of the accused.

MUBARAK APPOINTS AL-AZHAR RECTOR, ASWAN GOVERNOR

NC171321 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has issued a republican decree appointing His Eminence Shaykh Jad al-Haq 'Ali Jad al-Haq as Al-Azhar Mosque rector.

President Mubarak also issued a republican decree appointing Ahmad Shawqi al-Matini as governor of Aswan.

TALKS WITH TURKEY'S PRIME MINISTER CONTINUE

Ramadan, Ulusu Confer

JN171150 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA) -- Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, met Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ulusu and discussed Iraqi-Turkish relations in various fields. Ramadan expressed Iraq's desire to bolster closer relations with Turkey. He asserted that these relations are based on mutual and deep trust between the two countries, and would open new and broad horizons in the interest of the two peoples. Bulent Ulusu stressed his country's sincere desire to expand cooperation relations with Iraq and that Turkey attaches importance to the deepening and broadening of Iraqi-Turkish cooperation.

Sign Joint Cooperation Minutes

JN171201 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA) -- Iraq and Turkey signed joint cooperation minutes in the economic and technical fields here today. An Iraqi official said that the minutes provide for reviewing the implementation of agreements concluded between Iraq and Turkey and new means to develop bilateral relations in the economic, trade, transport, communications and transit trade fields. The minutes also provide for developing bilateral cooperation in the scientific, technical, touristic and other fields. The minutes were signed by Mahdi Muhsin 'Awdah, Trade Ministry under secretary and deputy chairman of the Iraqi-Turkish joint committee for economic and technical cooperation, and by Aktay Siscin, assistant to the Turkish Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Joint Statement Issued

JN171843 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 82

["Text" of Iraqi-Turkish joint statement issued in Baghdad and Ankara on 17 March 1982 on Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ulusu's visit to Iraq]

[Text] At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Iraq, Bulent Ulusu, prime minister of the Republic of Turkey, paid an official visit to the Republic of Iraq on 15-17 March 1982. The Turkish prime minister was accompanied by a high ranking delegation.

Ulusu and his accompanying delegation were accorded a warm and cordial reception by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, which reflected the relations of friendship and amity that link the peoples and governments of the two neighborly countries.

His Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, received Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ulusu who conveyed greetings and best wishes from Gen Kenan Evren, head of state of the Republic of Turkey, and expressed the wish to promote relations between the two neighborly and friendly countries.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Iraq, and Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ulusu held talks in an atmosphere of understanding and amity which were in harmony with the cordial atmosphere of friendship that will contribute to strengthening relations between the two neighborly countries.

The discussions focused on all aspects of bilateral relations and ways and means of their development in harmony with the close bonds that exist between the two countries.

The two sides expressed great satisfaction with the progress achieved in all fields and which has gone beyond the targets that were previously set. The two sides took into account these positive developments and the availability of the great economic potential in the two countries. The two countries stressed their determination to promote relations in the economic, trade, cultural, technical and scientific fields as well as in the field of transportation and communications and others on the basis of joint interests and mutual benefits.

The two sides reaffirmed the importance and need to pursue contacts on all levels for the purpose of consolidating relations between them.

During the visit, a meeting among experts was held to review the progress in the implementation of cooperation agreements between the two countries in the spheres that had been agreed on at the meetings of the second session of the Iraqi-Turkish joint committee which convened in Ankara during Taha Yasin Ramadan's visit to Turkey in August 1981. The discussions also dealt with international and regional issues of mutual interest. When reviewing the situation in the region, which largely affects its security and stability, the two sides expressed a strong desire to seek an early solution to the dispute between Iraq and Iran with the purpose of ending it through peaceful means.

Bulent Ulusu, prime minister of the Republic of Turkey, thanked Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Iraq, for the warm reception and hospitality he and his delegation were accorded during their stay in Iraq. Bulent Ulusu, prime minister of the Republic of Turkey, extended an official invitation to Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Iraq, to visit the Republic of Turkey. The invitation was accepted with pleasure and the date of the visit will be set through diplomatic channels.

Ulusu Departs

JN171351 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA) -- Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ulusu and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad today at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq. In a predeparture statement to INA, Ulusu said his talks with President Saddam Husayn and Iraqi officials had been positive and held in a friendly atmosphere. He added that his visit had strengthened relations of cooperation between the two sides. Ulusu said that from now on, Iraqi-Turkish friendship would be stonger and extend to other fields particularly as we are working to promote these relations in all fields. Concluding his statement, Ulusu expressed his country's sincere desire for the Iraqi-Iranian war to end in a just manner.

Earlier today, the Iraqi and Turkish sides signed three agreements on economic, trade, technical, scientific and cultural cooperation as well as the minutes of the Iraqi-Turkish joint cooperation committee. A press statement is expected to be issued later today on Ulusu's visit to Iraq. The Turkish prime minister was seen off at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; Industry and Minerals Minister Tahir Tawfiq; ministers; Iraq officials and the Turkish ambassador in Baghdad.

TRADE, CULTURAL AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH ALGERIA

JN171446 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA) -- Iraq and Algeria today signed three agreements to promote economic, trade, technical, cultural and scientific cooperation and the minutes of the meetings of the joint Iraqi-Agerian committee.

The aggrements were signed for the Iraqi side by 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of irrigation and the head of the Iraqi side to the meeting of the Iraqi-Algerian joint committee. On the Algerian side, the agreements were signed by Brahim Brahimi, minister of hydraulics, land development and environment protection and head of the Algerian side to the Iraqi-Algerian joint committee.

In a speech on the occasion of signing the agreements, 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud said the agreements represented the minimum of Iraqi and Algerian ambitions. He said he hoped that coordination and cooperation would be developed in the interest of the two fraternal countries. The head of the Algerian side, Brahim Brahimi, in a similar speech, expressed hope that the agreements would be an instrument for developing relations commensurate with the aspirations of the Arab peoples of the two countries.

ENVOY LEAVES FOR GUINEA WITH NEW PROPOSAL ON WAR

JN170921 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA) -- An Iraqi envoy to Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, chairman of the Islamic Good Offices Committee, left for Conakry today carrying an Iraqi proposal which will have an important effect on defining responsibility for the current dispute between Iraq and Iran.

Envoy Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs, described the new proposal as important and said that once Iran responds to it positively, it will have considerable effect on defining responsibility for the current dispute between Iraq and Iran. He added that he will hand President Sekou Toure a written message from President Saddam Husayn in this regard. He said that the contents of the message would be announced later. He gave no further details.

SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT AGREE TO OIL PIPELINE DEAL

NC141438 Paris AFP in English 1320 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Nicosia, 14 Mar (AFP) -- Saudi Arabia has agreed in principle to the construction of an Iraqi pipeline which would carry oil across Saudi territory to an oil terminal on the Red Sea, Iraqi Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim has said. He told the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY published here today that talks are being held with Saudi authorities over finance for the project, which he said will be completed before the end of 1982 and will have a capacity of 1.6 million barrels a day. The minister also said that Kuwait has agreed to another Iraqi pipeline project which would cross Kuwaiti territory and would have an estimated capacity of a million barrels a day.

SHAM'UN, AL-JUMAYYIL REACT TO HABIB TALKS

NC171917 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] The Lebanese Front today discussed new political, security and educational developments and reviewed the results of its leaders' meeting with U.S. envoy Philip Habib.

After the meeting, [former] President Camille Sham'un emphasized that nothing will happen except in the interest of Lebanon, its sovereignty and its unity. President Sham'un declined to comment on [former] President Franjiyah's call for a dialogue among all the Lebanese, because he had not seen President Franjiyah's statement. However, he said that the front had earlier called on all the Lebanese without exception to unite and to agree among themselves to safeguard Lebanon's rights, sovereignty and safety and to enhance the steadfastness of the entire Lebanese people.

With regard to the step to which [Lebanese Forces Commander] Shaykh Basir al-Jumayyil had referred in the past, President Sham'un emphasized that any step to be taken shall only be in the interest of Lebanon and all the Lebanese.

[Phalangist Party leader] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil has addressed an appeal to Lebanese Muslims in the name of the Phalangists and their friends, calling them to come to an understanding and to understand that our failure to agree and achieve solidarity is the greatest danger and the most serious tragedy for Lebanon.

He said: Very affectionately I ask our brothers in the western area [of Beirut]: Do they accept their present situation; a prefabricated disagreement preventing the sons of the same people from meeting? Why do we not meet to declare our agreement publicly so that the whole world may know who seeks Lebanon's interests and who does not and who is working for his own interests and for the Palestinian cause and who is harming these interests?

He said: After all the destruction that has taken place, the time has come for us to take our responsibilities seriously and to work for the salvation of Lebanon, because there is no disagreement among the Lebanese but a so-called disagreement that is imported from abroad.

After expressing regret that whenever we tried to achieve accord, a certain hand extends to prevent it, Al-Jumayyil said: We cannot impose our opinion on others, and we accept nothing other than understanding. For this reason we have always called for understanding our viewpoint because we are always eager to safeguard Lebanon's interests and unity.

NATIONAL MOVEMENT CRITICIZES HABIB MISSION

PM171119 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 11 Mar 82 p 3

[unattributed report]

[Text] The Lebanese National Movement has affirmed that the "principal objective of U.S. envoy Philip Habib's mission is to exercise political blackmail in the interest of Israel and the Phalangists" and called for "tough talk with him so as to express the rejection of this blackmail by the nationalist forces, the Palestinian revolution and Syria."

Following its weekly meeting yesterday the National Movement renewed its rejection of entrusting the Lebanese Army with any security tasks and held the authorities responsible for the faltering of the Arab Followup Committee's work.

The Central Political Council of the National Movement held a meeting last night. It discussed the political and security situation in the country and issued a statement saying that as a result of discussion it reached the following conclusion:

First, it has become clear that the principal objective of Philip Habib's mission in Lebanon and in some Arab countries is to exercise political blackmail in the interest of Israel and the Phalangists and to weaken the Lebanese nationalist forces, the Palestinian revolution and Syria.

This blackmail is part of the general U.S. onslaught on the forces of Arab steadfastness and confrontation and falls within the attempts to influence the course of the Lebanese presidential elections. Consequently Philip Habib's mission now centers on spreading fear of Israeli aggression in the south through talk about the precariousness of the cease-fire on the one hand and about dangers that would prevent the possibility of holding the presidential elections in a calm and natural atmosphere on the other.

The U.S. envoy hopes that the result of this fear will be to force the national Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian alliance to make concessions that would lead to: A reduction in size of the fighting forces of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in the south; the gradual withdrawal of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] from Lebanon beginning with withdrawal from Beirut; and the deployment of the factional [Lebanese] Army in positions that would enable it to become an element serving the interests of Israel, the United States and the Phalangists, thus enabling this triumvirate to have advance control of the outcome of the Lebanese presidential election.

It has therefore become necessary to talk firmly to Philip Habib in a way which would reflect the rejection by the Lebanese nationalist forces, the Palestinian revolution and Syria of this political blackmail which is being exercised by the United States on behalf of Israel and the secessionist forces. It must be made clear in this regard that the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces, which are actually anxious to maintain the cease-fire in the south, will confront any military attack to which Israel might resort in order to compensate for its American ally's failure to achieve the objectives of the political blackmail which he is exercising to serve its interests. It must also be made clear that the Lebanese nationalist forces, which are indeed anxious for the constitutional and normal transfer of power and for the holding of the presidential election in a calm and natural atmosphere, will know how to respond to any heightening of security tension to which the secessionist side might resort on U.S. instructions, with Israeli backing, and will be capable of thwarting the conspiracy to create a political vacuum.

Second, the actions of certain ruling circles and their security proposals have shed more light on terrorist explosions which are aimed at the nationalist areas. These circles are once again talking about the deploying the factional army in order to take over security duties, believing that the recent wave of explosions has had an effect in making this army acceptable to the nationalist masses and that the ADF is about to withdraw from its present positions and that a security vacuum will occur, a vacuum which the Deuxieme Bureau is ready to fill.

Despite the disappointment now felt in official circles, which recently wagered on the withdrawal of the ADF from Beirut and on the possibility of popular acceptance of the factional army, the National Movement finds itself obliged once again to renew its emphatic rejection of entrusting this army with any security tasks and calls for this army to be totally excluded from the political formula in this country. The National Movement advises the government to give up imagining that it is possible to accept an army that is merely a reserve for the Phalangist militia.

As for the wave of terror and explosions that is daily directed against areas not under the control of the secessionist forces, the Lebanese national forces will know how to deal with it collectively through a national security system that enjoys the backing of the ADF and involves the internal security forces that will share in the responsibility of maintaining security in accordance with a comprehensive plan that clearly defines the role of each party in this field.

Third, the council paused before the question of postponing the meetings of the Arab Followup Committee and placed on record the following facts and situations:

1. The Lebanese National Movement, Syria and the Palestinian revolution are not responsible for the postponement of the Arab Followup Committee meetings. It is evident that Damascus was ready until the last minute to facilitate the meeting and to take part in it.

2. The Lebanese National Movement holds the Lebanese authorities officially responsible for the faltering of the Arab Followup Committee's work because it did not exert any pressure for the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the committee at its recent meeting, particularly the decision regarding the setting up of an authority for the control of ports and coastal areas in order to ensure that dealings between the Phalangists and Israel are stopped. The National Movement here does not accept the authority's excuse nor the excuse of some Arab quarters based on considerations concerning the Palestinian stand with the aim of hindering the meeting. The Palestinian stand in this regard is quite clear: It has never in the past nor does it today constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Followup Committee resolutions, for the Palestinian revolution has announced more than once that it agrees with the National Movement on the views regarding the work and resolutions of the Followup Committee.

3. If the authorities are officially responsible for the obstruction of the committee's work, this should not blind us to the main and principal source for such obstruction, which is the Phalangist dealings with Israel and the raising of these dealings to an even more dangerous level following the frequent meetings between Sharon and Bashir al-Jumayyil. It is obvious that those who obstructed the Followup Committee meeting have done so in order to spare the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese authorities embarrassment because the committee, had it met, would have been compelled to turn into a tribunal to try the Phalangist Party for its continuing dealings with Israel and to bring the Lebanese authorities to account for their delay in setting up the authority for the control of ports and coastal areas.

4. The National Movement can see no alternative to the Arab Followup Committee as a vehicle for Arab efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis. Therefore it considers it necessary to raise once again the question of convening the Followup Committee meeting and calls on Lebanese authorities to take the initiative in this regard and to prepare the ground for the success of the committee meeting if it is held, by forming the authority for the control of ports and coastal areas as quickly as possible.

Needless to say, the National Movement still believes that the question of dealings between the Phalangist Party and Israel should top the agenda of the Followup Committee's work because without liquidating the relations between the Phalangist Party and the Zionist enemy not a single step can be taken toward a political solution of the Lebanese crisis and there will be no room for talk about any national dialogue to this end.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES SPEAKER ON HABIB MISSION

NC172026 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil as-As'ad has questioned who benefits from the bombing crimes by saying: I see no justification for such explosions. Speaker al-As'ad said this during his meeting today with the editors Doyen, Milhim Karam, and members of the press syndicate.

Regarding the bombings, Al-As'ad said: I find no justification for such bombings at all. I wonder who benefits from these crimes? Are they an act of vengeance against the French president who has visited Israel? Is it venegeance to kill innocent persons in Beirut streets? I do not know which organization thinks this way. However, I believe that President Mitterrand cannot be harmed by harming Lebanese citizens or innocent pedestrians. Such thinking makes him persist more in his stand, if the policy of France is actually negative on the issues of the Arabs. He added: If France practices this policy, then it is because the Arabs are not exerting pressure on it. Why don't we pressure the Arabs into doing what is required from them toward us?

Speaker al-As'ad asked: Why don't we consider the positive aspects of President Mitterrand's visit, including his demand for a Palestinian state in the speech which he delivered at the Knesset? Al-As'ad further said: The enemy is behind the current political bombings.

Regarding the presidential elections and the possibility of extending the term of President Sarkis and what has been said about the mission of Ambassador Philip Habib in this regard, Speaker al-As'ad said: I do not know if Philip Habib came to discuss the question of the presidency. My meeting with him did not broach this subject at all. He neither raised it nor did I mention it. What we discussed was the question of the desired stability. Habib seemed enthusiastic for this stability which could lead to sound elections. The United States can play a major role toward this stability by helping Lebanon realize unblemised elections. The United States can adopt the right course on the international level by supporting right, justice and man and by desisting from supporting the Israeli stand which constitutes a defiance of the UN principles and the rights of man.

Regarding the renewal and extension [of the president's term], we say that there is a constitutional practice for the transfer of the presidency. This is a basic stand in self-determination. He added: What we fear is that a constitutional vacuum, if it occurs, would provide an excuse for every plotter inside and outside this country to implement his final aims against Lebanon and the Lebanese.

Speaker al-As'ad also said: There is no such thing as extension or renewal, because they constitute defeatism, retreat and evasion from facing the challenges. It is not permissible to discuss them.

PLO'S SAYIL ON FRENCH TROOPS, 'ZIONIST' PLOTS

NC170846 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Brother Staff Col Abu al-Walid [Sa'd Sayil], Fatah Central Committee member and director of the Joint Forces Central Operations Room, has said the PLO does not object to the French forces operating within the framework of the UN emergency forces in southern Lebanon because we do not deal with these forces on the basis that they repreesent one state or another, rather, we deal with them as forces serving under the UN flag. He emphasized that the Zionist enemy is searching for justifications for aggression.

In a press statement, Brother Abu al-Walid said: We do not object to increasing the number of these forces in southern Lebanon; we are prepared to give all the facilities necessary to solve the Lebanese problem on the basis that their duty is to safeguard the Lebanese border and end the so-called border zone and the Sa'd Haddad ministate.

He said the PLO had accepted the cease-fire in the south on the basis of its commitment to offer all the facilities conducive to maintaining Lebanon's stability and safeguarding its unity and on the basis of the PLO commitment to Arab summit resolutions.

Brother Abu al-Walid stressed that Israel is assiduously attempting to (?exploit) this stand out of its belief that the army is capable of acting as a deterrent force against the PLO. He added: Any Zionist military action against the PLO will not achieve any objective; on the contrary, in all previous battles, the PLO always emerged stronger -- militarily and politically.

On the developing of the forces and military capabilities of the Palestinian revolution, Brother Abu al-Walid said: It is something that is natural for any military force that understands its goal; it is the duty of this force to develop all its capabilities whenever and wherever possible. The development of the military capabilites of the Palestinian revolution is an important strategic matter which the Palestinian command had placed on the list of its priorities.

Concluding his statement, Abu al-Walid said: The enemy is now searching for justifications for aggression, such as its reference to the magnitude of the Palestinian forces, considering this to be a violation of the cease-fire. Moreover, the enemy is also considering the internal operations as cease-fire violations and thus attempted aggressions will continue.

PALESTINIANS ANNOUNCE PHALANGIST MILITIA ALERT

NC180840 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0650 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] According to information arriving from the isolationist ghetto, the eastern area has witnessed a major escalation in military preparations in the past 48 hours. All Phalangist Party militias have been put on alert and most of the conscripts have been recalled and sent to contact lines, especially in Sannin, Jubayl and Al-Batrun. The inhabitants of these areas have been forced to clean the shelters. The heads of villages have been given special forms which they have been asked to fill out with information about how many citizens and cars are in their areas.

Informed security sources say that scores of Zionist experts are supervising all these preparations, especially the building of fortifications and the use of artillery and tanks which have been recently sent to Bashir al-Jumayyil from the Zionist entity, West Germany, Belgium and other countries. Scores of trucks have been seen carrying ammunition and supplies on the road from Beirut to Jubayl. The Bikfayya-Jubal road has been closed for over 1 hour.

Reports say that Bashir al-Jumayyil has abolished the role of the Poltical Bureau of the Phalangist Party and has presided over a political-military operations room, whose members he has chosen himself, after acquiring all powers and imposing himself as the sole representative of the ghetto areas.

In the face of this dangerous Phalagist escalation, national quarters have unanimously decided to get prepared on all the political and security levels to confront any phalangist flareup and to thwart its objectives, whether political objectives through attempts to impose hegemony on national areas or military objectives to expand the territory of the Phalangist statelet.

AL-BA'TH EDITORIAL ATTACKS IRAQI REGIME, U.S.

JN180930 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 18 Mar (SANA) -- AL-BA'TH says the Iraqi regime's basic task is completely devoted to foiling any move to speed up the establishing of an eastern military front capable of shouldering an all-out confrontation at this stage of the Arab-Zionist struggle.

In today's editorial entitled "Saddam's Arms Smashed at Syria's Threshold," the paper adds that the Baghdad regime has blown up every bridge to Syria, reversed the equations of coordination and rapproachement and created an incurable amount of hatred to prevent the creation of such a front. AL-BA'TH says the Iraqi regime's role, which has been assigned by U.S. imperialism, has become evident in the events taking place in the Arab area, particularly on the eastern borders of the Arab homeland. The paper asserts that these events are liable to furhter complications unless our people in fraternal Iraq arise to end this bloody stage which has increased the desire of imperialists and Zionists for tightening the noose around the Arab nation.

AL-BA'TH adds that the agent Baghdad regime is moving along two main axes in addition to its hostility against Syria. The first is devoted to fighting the pan-Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front because the regime believes the front is attracting the Arab masses and could become capable of foiling the Camp David plot. The second axis is devoted to combating the Islamic revolution in Iran, which had wrecked the shah's regime and a complete stage of agentry and political putridity. It is obvious that this revolution has dealt a painful blow to Saddam's regime and dreams of wrecking Arab steadfastness, particularly since this revolution declared that it constitutes a strong ally for the Arab nation against the Zionist enemy. The Baghdad regime declared war against the Iranian revolution in an attempt to sap its energies to prevent it from marshalling its potentials in the battle against the imperialist-Zionist common enemy.

Continuing, Al-BA'TH says: At a time when our country is completely involved in setting up a strategic balance, expanding the front of our friends in support of our cause, utilizing our political victories in the international arena and stepping up Arab confrontation against the U.S.-Zionist enemy, at this particular time, the Baghdad regime started unwaveringly supporting the agent Muslim Brotherhood by supplying it with arms, money and tons of explosives thus wagering on harming our people and their steadfastness vis-a-vis the U.S.-Zionist scheme in the region. However, it seems that the Baghdad ruler has forgotten as he always does, that our masses are acclimatized to facing enemies and agents and to breaking their arms on Syria's thresholds. Our masses alongside our people in beloved Iraq will foil the plot and wreck the imperialist alliances and their treasonous agent rulers.

AL-BA'TH WARNS OF U.S. PLANS FOR AGGRESSION

JN181025 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 18 Mar (SANA) -- AL-BA'TH asserts today that there are indications that the United States is currently preparing, through Israel and one other agent, for an action to make the situation explode in the region.

The paper points out U.S. preparations as represented in its military presence in the area in the form of so-called multinational forces in Egypt, the presence of the aircraft carrier Eisenhower, which is roaming the coast of occupied Palestine in preparation for an aggressive act, and the preparation and training in the Gulf of Sidra near the Libyan coast, as well as the Israeli concentrations in southern Lebanon and moves in Lebanon by Israel's agents, like the Phalangist gangs and the agent Sa'd Haddad's forces.

The paper says: All signs indicate that there is a new conspiratorial scheme, planned and sponsored by the United States, to make the situation in the Arab arena explode. This scheme may shortly begin in Lebanon and end up in the Gulf at Sidra in the near future as a prelude for the next phase of the Camp David plot.

AL-BA'TH concludes: This plot will not pass nor will it advance any further, because it is against the will and aspirations of our Arab masses as well as against our nation's basic objective of liberating occupied Arab lands and restoring our Palestinian Arab people's rights to self-determination on the soil of their homeland.

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT'S ENVOY ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE

JN171915 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] 'Abd al-Hamid al-Mahri, director of the information and cultural committee of the Algerian National Liberation Front and the personal envoy of President Chadli Bendjedid to President Hafiz al-Asad, arrived in Damascus at 1800 today. He was welcomed at the airport by 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for presidential affairs, and the Algerian ambassador in Damascus.

Speaking to a SANA correspondent, Al-Mahri said that his visit to Syria is within the framework of bilateral meetings and consultations. He added that he has a special message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid for Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

PRIME MINISTER TO TOUR KUWAIT, OTHER ARAB STATES

GF161253 Doha QNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 16 Mar (QNA) -- The QNA correspondent in Damascus has learned that Syrian Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm will embark on a tour of a number of Arab states next week starting with Kuwait.

During his tour Dr al-Kasm will hold talks with officials on bilateral relations and means to bolster and develop them in all fields. Talks will also focus on the current situation in the Arab region and means necessary to bolster and strengthen Arab solidarity in confronting the conspiracies the region is being subjected to.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON KHADDAM VISIT TO TEHRAN

For Tehran radio's text of the joint communique issued on 17 March at the end of Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's 4-day visit to Tehran, see pages I 1 - I 3 of the 18 March South Asia DAILY REPORT.

SHARON: ISRAEL 'MIGHT BE FORCED TO TAKE ACTION'

TA180545 Jerusalem POST in English 18 March 82 p 1

[Text] Tel Aviv (ITIM) -- Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon warned yesterday that Israel "might be forced to take action," following 15 acts of sabotage in Israel and five in south Lebanon during the past two weeks. All the acts were carried out from terrorist bases inside Lebanon, he stressed. Sharon was speaking at a Herut Party meeting in Bet Jabotinsky. He disclosed that an Israeli naval vessel came under shell-fire near Rosh Haniqra yesterday, but it was not hit.

The defense minister said that Israel could easily hit the Syrian missiles stationed deep in Lebanon, but if this was done, it would be necessary to deal with missiles stationed inside Syria also and Israel had no desire to go to war. There was nothing easier than becoming involved in a war, said Sharon, but "if we really want a solution, we have to think one step ahead."

The minister said that Israel would not be inhibited by the memorandum of understanding with the United States. If Israel did attack, the situation would not be allowed to return to the status quo ante. A way to ensure this would be to sign a peace agreement with the Government of Lebanon, he noted, "but unfortunately there is no such government."

Speaking about the peace process with Egypt, Sharon said that future negotiations would take place in Jerusalem, Cairo and Washington, as needed. At the request of Prime Minister Menahem Begin, he had made it clear to the Egyptians that if there could not be negotiations in Jerusalem, there would be no talks at all. Asked about the balance of forces in the Middle East, Sharon noted that whereas it had been 3:1 in favour of the Arabs, their quantitative superiority was increasing. By the end of the decade it would be 5:1 and this made it even more important for Israel to maintain a qualitative superiority.

Further Details

TA180951 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Mar 82 pp 1, 2

[ITEM report]

[Excerpt] In reply to a question, Mr Sharon said that "Israel will not concede its position, whether there is a memorandum of understanding with the United States or not. The memorandum is based on a mutual interest. The United States has punished itself just as much as it has Israel." He added that whether the memorandum is renewed or not is immaterial as Israel will not give up its positions on autonomy, nor will it accept a Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria.

The defense minister later emphasized that Israel will maintain the awareness of its deterrent power, and this will be the focal point in the next few years. This, he said, was made clear to everyone, including the United States and Egypt. Indeed, the Arabs are aware of this for fear that Israel might react to their operations.

NAVY BOAT SHELLED FROM LEBANON, NO DAMAGE

TA180523 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] A navy boat was shelled yesterday not far from Rosh Haniqra, but was not damaged. This was disclosed last night by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon during a meeting at Bet Jabotinsky in Tel Aviv.

Our military correspondent adds that the boat approached the coast in order to identify a target when it was fired upon. The terrorists have recently strengthened their forces along the coastline and are now equipped with cannons and other arms.

UNIFIL CONFIRMS SHELLING INCIDENTS FROM LEBANON

TA180915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Sources in UNIFIL headquarters said that this week the terrorists directed fire from the Lebanese coast at Israeli patrol boats twice: The first time was yesterday afternoon, and this incident was reported by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon; but it was preceded by fire directed at a patrol boat last Monday night. UN observers have said they cannot categorically determine whether or not the Israeli boats had penetrated Lebanese waters, but UNIFIL officers have told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that from the beginning of this week there has been a lot of activity in the terrorist concentrations in Tyre and Ar-Rashidiyah.

UN DELEGATION TOURS POSITION AT BEAUFORT CASTLE

TA170536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] A delegation of UN officers toured Beaufort Castle yesterday for the first time in the last 2 and 1/2 years. The castle is controlled by the terrorists and the officers took measurements and drew maps in anticipation of the stationing of a UN observation post on the site. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned from UNIFIL sources that it will position its troops at Beaufort Castle even before the end of this month in spite of difficulties in preparing the ground.

SHARON, 'ALI HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE 17 MAR

TA171216 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1125 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] [Announcer] Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and his entourage departed for Cairo a short time ago. At a joint press conference, Ministers Sharon and 'Ali announced that the supreme committee on normalization would apparently convene in Cairo within a few days to try and overcome the issue still in dispute, namely, the demarcation of 15 border points, including Tabah near Elat. Our correspondent on Arab affairs, Aharon Barne'a, good afternoon to you.

[Barne'a -- live] Good afternoon from Ben-Gurion Airport.

[Announcer] I understand that the issue of Mubarak's visit was not really concluded but it was merely stated that the matter had been deferred to a more comfortable date. Will the issue be raised again in the discussions scheduled to be held in Cairo within a few days?

[Barne'a] The issue may be raised again. At the press conference, both Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said President Mubarak's message to Prime Minister Begin had been understood. 'Ali reiterated that the prime minister had reformulated the invitation to President Mubarak as far as the date and program of the visit; whether it will or will not be held in Jerusalem will be decided in the future. The visit will take place at a date convenient to President Mubarak. In fact, all the news presented at the press conference was included in Ari'el Sharon's opening remarks:

[Begin Sharon recording] Out of all the issues, one question remains unsolved. Several proposals were raised on this matter, that is, the demarcation of the border at 15 points from Rafah -- regarding which there are no problems -- and down to the Gulf of Elat. Each of us will submit these issues and proposals to our superiors.

We will meet again in Cairo within a few days, perhaps even before the end of this month, hoping we will then be able to settle the technical differences on this matter. [end recording]

[Barne'a] Incidentally, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said both parties remain loyal to implementing the treaty and expressed the hope that a solution would also be found regarding Tabah and the other points before 25 April. All the questions referring to international arbitration and who will exercise sovereignty if an agreement is not reached -- all these issues are still under discussion. A reply to all these questions will be given at the next meeting of the supreme committee.

We asked the Egyptian foreign minister and the Israeli defense minister to try and sincerely tell us whether they are at all worried about the situation. Minister Sharon replied that he is not concerned about future relations between Egypt and Israel, whereas Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said the following:

[Begin 'Ali recording -- in English] We have finalized all the problems that were ahead of us 3, 4 years ago and we were persevering. It needed courage from the president, it needed courage from the leaders, it needed perseverance from the assistants. And, I think there is no possibility whatsoever that we will come at the end of this long process and stand still. [end recording]

[Barne'a translates the above and continues] We will continue to move forward, our main goal being to set a firm foundation for relations after 25 or 26 April -- 'Ali added.

Finally, a few words about the issue of autonomy. A question was posed at the press conference as to why Prime Minister Begin objected to holding a ministerial meeting on the issue of autonomy in Washington. Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon replied that it was impossible to strike our capital, Jerusalem, the capital of Eretz Yisra'el and the State of Israel for the last 3,000 years, off the map. Sharon added that we believe the negotiations should be held in Cairo and in Jerusalem and we would not mind holding negotiations in Washington as well. Each country has the right to decide on its own capital. Therefore, the position of the prime minister and the entire Cabinet -- and on this issue Sharon believes there is a national consensus -- was that the negotiations should be held in Cairo and in Jerusalem and, if necessary, also in Washington.

Incidentally, the question of Jerusalem was also raised concerning President Mubarak's visit. In this context, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said that we see the visit of a head of state to a capital as normal and he did not think it possible that an official guest could come to Israel and fail to visit the capital, just as it was impossible that an official guest should go to the United States and fail to visit Washington.

As stated, the disputed issues are still under discussion. These issues will be submitted to the Israeli Government and President Mubarak for their decision and both sides will be called upon to find a solution at the next ministerial meeting of the supreme committee in Cairo, apparently before the end of this month.

SHIM'ON PERES MEETS WITH EGYPT'S 'ALI, GHALI

TA171246 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1135 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali have held a meeting with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres. At the end of the meeting, Peres told our correspondent on party affairs Amnon Nadav that the Egyptians attach great importance to Tabah, the site of the border demarcation near Elat which Israel and Egypt are disputing.

Following the meeting, our correspondent asked Mr Peres for his impressions regarding developments after the completion of the withdrawal on 26 April.

[Begin recording] [Peres] What they want -- and I share their wish -- is to continue negotiations and talks, even if we do not have a solution on hand at the moment, in order to maintain an atmosphere of hope, so that we are not faced with a situation whereby the day after 25 April everything would seem lost. My impression is that the Egyptians are very interested in resuming the negotiations on autonomy after the completion of the Sinai withdrawal. I have also deduced that they maintain a relationship with Jordan. Although they do not have an explicit Jordanian promise to join the peace process, they have not despaired of it coming along. They believe that an appeal to Jordan to join the negotiations may be effective under current circumstances. Of course, they reject all the rumors that after the final evacuation the Egyptians will recall their ambassador and close the border.

[Nadav] Are the Egyptians apprehensive about last-minute hitches or do they already see it as a fait accompli?

[Answer] They repeatedly mentioned the issue of Tabah, because Tabah is a symbol. A famous battle took place between the Ottoman Empire and Egypt at Tabah in 1906, and every Egyptian student knows about it. And here, again, when everything seemed almost settled and, yet, at the last moment... The Arabs will again say: Look, Israel has gone back, it has changed its mind. In my opinion, a solution will be found to this question.

[Question] Are they aware of the circumstances accompanying the evacuation of the Yamit District?

[Answer] They are aware of it and they say: We also have problems, we also have fundamentalists and extremist groups; 2,000 of them are currently in jail -- this is not my analogy, it is theirs. On the issue of Tabah they emphasized the importance of the matter although there is a clear Israeli interest on this point. In my opinion, Israel must insist on its position. [end recording]

AUTONOMY TALKS MUST BE HELD IN JERUSALEM

TA171813 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Mar 82

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The defense minister appeared this evening before Herut movement functionaries at Metzudat Ze'ev in Tel Aviv, and our political affairs correspondent Amnon Nadav is here with this report:

[Nadav] The prime minister wanted to tell the Egyptians that a situation could no longer prevail in which talks would not be held in Jerusalem. This was explained today by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon in the talks that had taken place, to his Egyptian guests and notably to Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, before their departure for Egypt.

[Begin recording] [Sharon] The prime minister asked me to tell the Egyptians today -- and this is also what I did -- that future autonomy talks would be held in Jerusalem, in Cairo and in Washington, should this be necessary. And, should they not want to conduct talks in Jerusalem, then the subjects of autonomy will not be discussed. And this is what I told the Egyptians. [end recording]

[Nadav] As for the future, after the conclusion of the Sinai withdrawal, on a situation of a breach of agreement that Israel could not tolerate, the defense minister said:

[Begin recording] [Sharon] We wanted to insure that in Sinai the Egyptian force would be small, that it will be deployed only near the canal.

Its size is known, its size has been stipulated -- not for a short period of time; this is forever -- this is not for a short period of time, not for a transition period. It was stipulated that there would be a demilitarized area in Sinai of 150 kilometers. This may be an example of a situation in which Israel could not accept any change. And, in the best of spirits, we also explained to the Egyptians -- I myself explained this many times to the Egyptians -- I explained to them why, why Israel cannot accept this under any circumstance. [end recording]

Ghali: No Objection

TA180522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali has said that Egypt has no objection to holding autonomy negotiations in Jerusalem. This was his reaction to the statement by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon that the negotiations could not continue unless Jerusalem is made one venue for the talks to be held. Ghali said that it is not the place where the talks are held that is important, but the negotiations themselves, whose purpose is to realize the rights of the Palestinian people. Minister Sharon said last night that he had made it clear to the Egyptians during the visit of Foreign Minister 'Ali that Israel would not accept the entry of Egyptian forces into the Sinai demilitarized zone either, nor would it accept a change in the size of those forces.

EGYPTIANS RAISE NEW BORDER DEMARCATION PROBLEM

TA181025 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Mar 81 pp 1, 2

[Report by military correspondent Ze'ev Schiff]

[Excerpt] Egypt has raised another problem regarding the demarcation of the international border, which might further complicate the dispute on the issue. Egyptian representatives have announced that the demarcation of the border between the Gaza Strip and the Sinai cannot be done in the ordinary way because the border in question is one dividing Egypt and the future Palestinian autonomous region, not Israel.

Egyptian sources who have pointed out the problem have told me that this is nothing new and that this matter of principle had been raised in the past as well. At the same time, it was impossible to determine from the Egyptian representatives' remarks whether or not this signifies that they have no intention of demarcating that stretch of the borderline between the Gaza Strip and the Sinai today or if they wish to put it off or whether they might want others to join in marking the border. It is also conceivable that the contention was only raised formally so that the Egyptian reservation with respect to the demarcation of the border between the Gaza Strip and the Sinai would be entered in the minutes.

While in other border sections the dispute is over 15 points, the border separating the Gaza Strip from the Sinai is a pretty clear line. The point closest to the Gaza Strip is near Kerem Shalom.

SHAMIR INTERVIEWED ON SINAI WITHDRAWAL, LEBANON

PM171329 Copenhagen BERLINGKSE TIDENDE in Danish 10 Mar 82 p 4

[Mogens Kofod-Hansen dispatch]

[Text] Jerusalem -- Yitzhaq Shamir was a determined resistance fighter when under British rule in Palestine -- before the creation of Israel in 1948 -- he fought for the Jews' right to have their own country again.

Today as foreign minister he is also said to be a tough opponent in political negotiations which often touch on the nation's life or death. But he seems almost shy and bashful and gentle when he is being interviewed -- a rare occurrence -- and he expresses himself carefully.

Today, however, Israel's problems are so great that Shamir makes no attempt to conceal them. He remarks quite rightly that the Jews' role as the chosen people is not always easy, chosen to be the scapegoat, and mentions as an example: when thousands of people are killed in the Syrian town of Hamah most people in the world pass over the event, but when a single person is arrested in Israel there is a great uproar.

Of relations with Egypt after Israel's withdrawal from the last part of the Sinai Desert in April and the uncertainty surrounding new Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's course, Shamir told me: "We are in a critical phase. The withdrawal is a traumatic event for all Israelis. It is a national tragedy to have to remove thousands of citizens who have sacrificed a part of their life there. This is a sacrifice for peace. We want to live in peace with Egypt in the future. But it is only natural for us to wonder how the peace will be after the withdrawal and after the assassination of President as-Sadat, who had an undoubted influence on the situation in Egypt and its relations with us."

[Question] Are you worried?

[Answer] Egypt's new leader tells us that the peace and As-Sadat's policy will continue, but that does not stop people here asking questions and being tortured by worries. We believe that the peace process will go further after April, but only the future can tell whether it will be just a formal, a cold peace. Perhaps it will be a peace with problems, but a peace nevertheless.

[Question] Do you take the fact that Mubarak will not come to Jerusalem as a warning?

[Answer] You must look at it in the context of what I have just said. For us it goes without saying that a visit by a foreign head of state must take place in our capital, Jerusalem. That is why we are concerned at Mubarak's refusal and hope that he will change his mind despite the difficulties he has mentioned. [answer ends]

In reply to my question, the foreign minister confirmed that Mubarak's reason -- that a visit to Jerusalem would harm the reestablishment of Egypt's relations with the rest of the Arab world -- conflicted with their earlier promises that this would not happen at the cost of Egypt's relations with Israel. Similarly Shamir confirmed that Israel is giving away its best card by leaving the rest of Sinai. "This is the reason for the doubts we have in connection with the future. We are paying a very high price. The question is what are we getting in return."

[Question] There are also problems attached to relations with the United States, especially because of the expected supply of sophisticated U.S. arms to Jordan...

[Answer] Our special relationship with the United States continues. We have friendly discussions about the Middle East situation, and the United States is taking part in the negotiations on Palestinian self-rule. But there are differences of opinion. The United States is keen to win the friendship of the Arab countries, but the means of doing so -- selling arms -- is dangerous. We do not take the view that these arms are necessary or will be used against an outside superpower (Shamir means, but does not say, the Soviet Union). This means that the arms would only be used against us. There are more than enough arms in the Middle East, more than NATO has in Europe.

Israel also has to take into consideration that the Soviet Union is supplying large quantities of arms to Syria, the most militant Arab nation, to Libya and Iraq, and to the PLO terrorist organization.

A short way from our northern border there are large concentrations of PLO forces with all types of arms, including artillery and tanks, turned on us. This is worrying after what happened last summer, when they attacked northern Israel (and almost half the population in the town of Qiriyat had to flee).

[Question] Does Israel intend to intervene?

[Answer] There has been a cease-fire since July last year. We want it to go on forever. But if one day the PLO decides to use arms, we will strike back. It is our duty to protect our population. Otherwise, the PLO could paralyze all life in northern Israel. We would not allow that. We must always be ready to defend ourselves. [answer ends]

Of the UN forces in southern Lebanon Shamir said that they play a positive role to a certain extent, but that they cannot solve Israel's security problem.

He described relations with Europe as unsatisfactory for Israel "since the EEC's Venice declaration and its experiments to find a solution to the Middle East problem without asking us and without taking our interests into consideration." But he did see a small change for the better thanks to the change of presidents in France symbolized in Francois Mitterrand's state visit.

"Despite this, Europe still has a negative attitude toward the peace process here -- for instance, the EEC declarations about a Palestinian state and PLO participation in the peace negotiations. We find it absurd that the EEC should cause Egypt difficulties like this. The Camp David agreements say nothing about a Palestinian state or PLO participation, but it is difficult for the Egyptians to be less flexible on that point than the Europeans are."

Yitzhaq Shamir ended by calling on Europe to support Camp David and encourage moderate trends -- rather than trying new initiatives and encouraging extremism. "I do not know whether Europe is strong enough to help in bringing about a solution," he said, "but it could easily do some harm, because for that you do not have to be strong."

BEN-ELISAR CONFERS WITH VILLAGE LEAGUE LEADER

TA171250 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, today met with the head of the villages association in Judaea and Samaria, Mustafa Dudin, at the latter's request. Afterwards, reporter Harley Braidman asked Dudin what effect the death-threat of Jordanian Premier Mudar Badran had had on members of the leagues.

[Begin recording] [Dudin] Really, it had effects on some of the individuals which are receiving salaries from Jordan, but no effect on the village leagues as organizations.

[Question] That is to say that nobody has yet resigned?

[Answer] Till now no one has been resigned, except one from Ramallah area.

[Question] And what did Mr Ben-Elisar promise you, if he promised you anything?

[Answer] I asked him to explain our cause to the members of the Knesset and I asked all the honest people in the world to defend the democracy and the freedom in the area and to denounce such fascist actions which was taken by Jordan. [end recording]

Ben-Elisar and Dudin explained their encounter as a courtesy meeting. Dudin made several requests, which Ben-Elisar is to hand over to Defense Minister Sharon, and which he called mainly political. Our reporter asked Ben-Elisar how he assessed Dudin's position.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Elisar] Mr Dudin expressed to me his position, some of his difficulties and problems, some of his worries even. He seems to me to be a very courageous man, sure of himself and his ways.

[Question] What do you think of the death sentence pronounced by Jordan against the village associations and the people who cooperate with them?

[Answer] Well, it's a very cruel declaration. Maybe this is the nature of the Jordanian regime, though I am absolutely sure that this decision of Jordan was not adopted upon their own initiative and that there was foreign influence. I think that it is the duty of the Government of Israel, and of Israeli authorities, to defend and protect all those who are under our rule.

[Question] When you say "foreign influence," what do you mean exactly?

[Answer] Saudi Arabian influence and the PLO, and there is some kind of connection between the Jordanian Government and the PLO in this respect. [end recording]

DUDIN TO PUBLISH WEEKLY; 2 RESIGN FROM LEAGUE

TA171433 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Village league leader Mustafa Dudin announced he decided to publish a weekly because east Jerusalem papers receive instructions from Beirut, do not serve the public in the territories and he cannot express himself through them.

This morning, two more village leaders from the Ramallah District announced their resignation from the area village leagues, thus raising the number of defectors from the village leagues to 15. Hundreds of village heads, however, are still listed as belonging to the leagues.

REFUGEE CAMP HEADS CRITICIZE BETHLEHEM MAYOR

TA171414 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Mukhtars from the Ad-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem criticized the statements made by Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj concerning the rough and severe treatment by security forces of the camp's residents. The criticism was made to Military Government representatives. One of the mukhtars, Sha'ban Abu 'Ali, told our correspondent that they are demanding that the mayor not interfere in matters concerning the refugee camp. In reaction, the Bethlehem mayor said that while it is true that he has no connection with the refugee camp, yesterday some inhabitants of the camp came to him and told him incredible stories and, as a result, he contacted the Red Cross. According to Frayj, the two mukhtars who rejected his accusations belong to the village league.

IDF DENIES CHARGES OF MISTREATMENT IN BETHLEHEM

TA180743 Jerusalem POST in English 18 Mar 82 p 1

[Report by Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] In Bethlehem, mayor Ilyas Frayj has asked the Red Cross and UNRWA officials to investigate allegations by residents of the nearby Ad-Duhayshah refugee camp of maltreatment by the army, which has been enforcing curfew there for the past three days.

According to Frayj, scores of women from the camp have come to his house during periods when the curfew is lifted or sent complaints by other means that border police, soldiers from nearby settlements organized in area defence units, and armed members of the local village league have been intimidating and even beating people in the camp.

The allegations of maltreatment were firmly denied last night by security sources. Frayj was attacked verbally by three mukhtars from the camp yesterday, who said on the Arabic service of Israel radio that Ad-Duhayshah is not part of Bethlehem and that he has no business interfering. The mayor has pointed out that all three men are appointed mukhtars and are active in the local village league. One, (Jam'a Abu Jida), is employed in the league's office in Bethlehem.

In Ramallah yesterday, it was announced that the area's village league this week received several score million shekels from the Civilian Administration for paving district roads and making other improvements. League head Jamil al-Khatib said the money would also be used for developing water sources and laying telephone lines. In Tulkarm early yesterday morning, unknown assailants opened fire at the home of a local resident. He called security forces, which searched the area but made no arrests.

GAZA MAYOR SAYS PLO'INSEPARABLE' FROM PEOPLE

TA171415 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Gaza Mayor Rashad Ash-Shawwa retracted reservations he expressed in the past about the PLO and published an announcement saying that the PLO is an inseparable part of the Palestinian people and represents the inhabitants of the territories and the Palestinians in other countries. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari comments that in his previous statements Ash-Shawwa had hinted that the inhabitants of the territories had a separate representation and he had brought upon himself the anger of the PLO extremists.

COUNCIL URGES BOYCOTT OF CIVIL ADMINISTRATION

TA180534 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] The Gaza local council has called for a boycott of the Israeli Civil Administration. This is in support of the Jerusalem area town of Al-Birah, whose council refused to meet with the head of the administration, Professor Menahem Milson.

MILITARY GOVERNMENT DISBANDS AL-BIRAH COUNCIL

TA180916 Jeruslaem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] It has just been reported that the Military Government has disbanded the Al-Birah municipal council. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reported a few minutes ago that a member of the Civilian Administration has just arrived at the mayor's office, carrying a decree ordering the disbandment of the municipal council. A few days ago, the municipal council members refused to come for a meeting with the director of the Civilian Administration, Menahem Milson, because it is boycotting the Civilian Administration.

HEBRON SCHOOL STAGES STRIKE TO PROTEST DETENTIONS

TA111128 Jeruslaem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] A school strike was staged at the Hebron polytechnical school to protest the detention of the students who participated in yesterday's demonstration. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that the number of detainees has reached 38.

EIGHT ARRESTED IN DISTURBANCES IN EAST JERUSALEM

TA171559 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] In east Jerusalem disturbances of the peace occurred today for the 8th day in a row. Today disturbances were caused by female students at a high school. Youths set up roadblocks using rocks, junk and burning tires in Shu'afat and on the road which passes near the Coca-Cola plant. Police and border police cleared the roadblocks and in one incident made the youths causing the disturbances help them. So far eight students have been arrested.

IDF LIFTS CURFEW IN GOLAN DRUZE VILLAGE

TA171129 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] The curfew imposed on the village of Majdal Shams on the Golan has been lifted. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that two villagers have been detained after having participated in yesterday's demonstration, and two others fled as they were about to be arrested. The committee for solidarity with the Golan residents claims that the IDF used force when dispersing the demonstration.

IDF HOLDS DIVISIONAL EXERCISE ON GOLAN HEIGHTS

TA180746 Jerusalem POST in English 18 Mar 82 p 2

[Text] Maneuvers -- Divisional exercises which ended on the Golan Heights yesterday morning included Merkava tanks and units of combat engineers. The chief of staff, Rav-Aluf Refa'el Eytan, participated in the exercise, and Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon observed them.

U.S. TROOPS ARRIVE IN SINAI TO JOIN MFO

TA171838 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Seven hundred troops from the United States crack 82d Airborne Division arrived in Ofira today to join the MFO [Multinational Force and Observers]. The contingent, together with its commander, Col William Garrison, made the journey in two El Al Boeing 747's.

CASPAR WEINBERGER TO VISIT IN 'ABOUT 2 MONTHS'

TA180750 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] U.S. secretary of defense, Caspar Weinberger, will probably visit Israel in about 2 months. He will also visit other regional countries, including Egypt. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that after the withdrawal from the Sinai is completed, the United States will lift all the sanctions it had imposed on Israel because of the Golan Law. One such ban has already been lifted and the U.S. Department of Defense is allowing senior officers to visit Israel. Thus, in a few weeks the deputy commander of the U.S. Air Force and the commander of the army aviation in Europe [title as heard] will visit Israel.

POST REPORTS UK'S CARRINGTON TO STAY IN JERUSALEM

TA180729 Jerusalem POST in English 18 Mar 82 p 1

[Text] London -- Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington will be staying at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem during his 48-hour visit to Israel at the end of the month.

Unlike Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, the British Government does not have any inhibitions about its leaders staying in the capital. The possibility of a visit to the British Consulate in east Jerusalem is not excluded by Foreign Office sources.

MA'RIV: PLO REPLACING REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD

TA171036 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Mar 82 p 1

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent 'Oded Granot]

[Text] An unprecedented wave of transfers and new appointments in the top PLO offices throughout the world was begun not long ago. The reshuffle is being carried out at the instructions of Yasir 'Arafat, and it affects nearly all PLO offices in the world. Observers believe that in some cases the changes involve resignations of incumbent directors, most probably for fear of assassination attempts against their lives.

Thus, for instance, the head of the PLO office in Warsaw, Fawwaz Yasin, and the director of the North Korea PLO office, Ahmad Shawwa, have submitted their resignations.

Other changes involve the heads of the PLO offices in Tunisia, Morocco, Kuwait, India and several other countries. Sometimes even the more senior heads of offices are involved, including people holding rather top positions in the terrorist leadership. Ibrahim al-Sus, the PLO representative in France, has been reassigned to Belgium. Da'ud Barakat, the head of the PLO office in Geneva, and Ribhi 'Awad, the head of the terrorist office in the Persian Gulf Emirates, have been discharged. Nabil Ramlawi, who headed the London bureau, has been transferred to Beirut, and the terrorist representative in Moscow, Muhammad Sha'r, will be recalled to Damascus. So far no replacement for him has been named.

LIBYA

PLANNED U.S. MANEUVERS 'MIGHT TRIGGER' WAR

LD171626 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] The U.S. Navy secretary said yesterday in a statement that the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean will hold maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra off Libyan shores during the next 6 months. The radio political affairs editor comments: In 1981 when the Gulf of Sidra was subjected to an attack by U.S. aircraft, the Reagan administration was seeking to drive the Arab Libyan people into a military confrontation against the United States [words indistinct]. But the Reagan administration failed to achieve its objective. For this reason, it has tried to use pressure that might lead to confrontation, but through other means, the means of economic blockade.

Observers following U.S. policy on the jamahiriyah -- from the breaking of diplomatic relations to the military attack against the Gulf of Sidra, including the attempt to impose a total economic blockade against the Arab Libyan people, and ending with the recent statement by the U.S. Navy secretary on the military maneuvers that the U.S. administration intends to conduct in the Gulf of Sidra, as well as the information campaign launched by the Reagan administration against Arab Libyan people -- believe that these steps are nothing but preparations for an invasion of Libya and conditioning world opinion for such an invasion.

The Reagan administration has made several aggressive moves against the Arab Libyan people, but the forthcoming military maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra are a blatant aggressive move against the Arab Libyan people. Observers say this is a clear attempt to invade the jamahiriyah. This is shown by all preparations for the maneuvers which, as stressed by the White House press spokesman [as heard] will take place during the next 6 months, and by the fact that they are to be conducted in the Gulf of Sidra amid allegations by U.S. circles that the waters of Sidra are international waters rather than Libyan territorial waters.

It is worth noting that if such a U.S. intention toward Libya is true -- and this makes observers anticipate another U.S. involvement like that in the Vietnam war or worse -- then the jamahiriyah must prepare to confront a war that would be imposed on it, which might trigger a third world war, as well as various economic, geographic and international changes.

Moreover, since the maneuvers the United States intends to conduct in the Gulf of Sidra would be inside Libyan territorial waters -- which would then mean an open attack against the territory of an independent state -- the jamahiriyah, because of its position in the framework of a strategic alliance with the world forces of revolution and progress which use the jamahiriyah as an international sanctuary to fight colonialism, Zionism, racism and reaction, will therefore not be alone in the confrontation in defense of its territorial integrity.

The U.S. administration would then bear the full responsibility for whatever consequences might result and would place the security and peace of the region and the world in (?danger).

AL-QADHDHAFI ADDRESSES ARAB STUDENTS' MEETING

LD171926 Tripoli JANA in English 1804 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Mar (JANA) -- The revolution's leader has greeted the first ideological symposium of Arab students studying in jamahiriyah currently being held here.

Addressing the symposium this afternoon, the leader opened his remarks by saying: "You have stepped along the correct path. You were a neglected quantity, much like the 150 million Arabs living from the Atlantic to the Gulf: quantity devoid of quality."

He added: "The life which I mean is not the life of eating and drinking, but that of this nation's existence facing danger from the big powers, for America is determined to expand the Zionist entity and to back it so as it becomes a substitute for the Arab nation's entity. The issue during this state is that of a threatened national existence in which life loses its value. The important thing is not material life, for we can live as poor but free. Such a life would be of value."

The leader stressed that the Zionist enemy's design is aimed at the land and against the Arab people. He said: "Your gathering is the starting point along the correct path. In this gathering, a programme of national endeavour should be drawn. This gathering should not be a fleeting meeting but a nationalist gathering which would succeed in creating a movement fully independent of the present state of association with the Zionists, Americans and reaction. The present Arab actuality is sick and must be destroyed.... The new generation must sweep away all the stockpiled debris in the Arab arena and combust it with the flames of people's revolution."

He said: "The Arab people should attain power and enter the battle affirming our existence, for the Arab people today are excluded from the battle. Thus, Arab youth should set a nationalist programme for liberating the Arab nation and for its unity."

He stressed: "The solution is to create a comprehensive and wide ranging nationalist movement of conquest which would remove the borders and barriers and push the masses into the arena of action and battle, so as to resist imperialism, reaction and instruments of domination."

He pointed out: "Without such an orientation, the Arab nation is doomed to slavery and Zionism, and this nation could be obliterated to be replaced by the manufactured Zionist entity. This nation could become a destitute nation due to the Zionist march. History affirms this, for there were nations which were obliterated in the world, such as the red Indians."

The leader warned that the Arab nation is passing through a grave stage, which could lead to the end of the Arab nationality. He said: "Despite this, there is now potential to unite our forces and to work for confronting the enemy."

FRENCH FAMILY CONVICTED OF SPYING PARDONED

NC171859 Paris AFP in English 1823 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Valenciennes, France, 17 Mar (AFP) -- A French woman and her two sons, sentenced to life in prison in Libya for spying, have been pardoned by Libyan President [as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, it was learned here today.

Denise Dupont, 58, Alain Dupont, 25, and Jean-Claude Dupont, 21, were arrested in Tripoli in April, 1980, convicted of "spying for American imperialism and Zionism," and sentenced last February 20 to life in prison.

News of the pardon was transmitted in Paris by officials of the Libyan Embassy [as received] to the mayors of the towns of Thiant and Haulchin, where the Duponts lived before going to Libya.

MOROCCO

TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

LD171414 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, together with an important ministerial delegation, arrived in Rabat at noon today for an official working visit. He was met at Sale airport by Prime Minister Maati Bouabid, members of the government, Arab and African diplomats and the Tunisian ambassador in Rabat, together with other civilian and military figures.

Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali made a statement to the press at the airport: [Begin recording] I am paying this official and working visit with pride and [word indistinct] at the invitation of my brother and colleague Maati Bouabid. This is my second visit to Morocco since I became prime minister.

I have with me a letter of fraternity, [word indistinct] and affection addressed to His Majesty King Hassan II from his brother President Bourguiba. I also bring with me to the Moroccan people and Government greetings from the Tunisian people and Government. I believe this visit, though short, will enable us to continue the dialogue and consultation -- to continue to march with steady steps on the right path leading us to more [word indistinct] cooperation and [word indistinct] the joint action for peace and for rapprochement and fraternity at the Maghreb and Arab levels. I believe that [words indistinct] without slogans or enthusiastic long statements is a practical way, a way leading (?to results), a way which can be an example for cooperation between the [word indistinct] of the Arab nations without preventing Arab meetings; consultation, fraternity and [words indistinct] in our bilateral relations -- if they spread and march toward moderate aims [words indistinct], trade, education, [word indistinct], sports and information. This is unity which is (?represented) in the unity of hearts, the unity of destiny and is embodied in planned and programmed actions and programs whose implementation is carried out by [words indistinct] concerned in the government. [end recording]

The accompanying delegation comprises National Economy Minister Abdelaziz Lasram, who arrived in Morocco yesterday; National Education Minister Mohammed Fredj Chedli; Youth and Sports Minister Mohamed Kraiem; and a number of officials.

Official private talks between the two prime ministers are due to begin this afternoon, to be followed by a plenary session attended by both delegations.

Talks Begin

LD172238 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Private talks took place in Rabat this afternoon between Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and Prime Minister Prof Maati Bouabid. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways of strengthening these relations.

Afterward, an expanded working session held under the chairmanship of the two prime ministers was attended on the Moroccan side by Sidi Moulay Ahmed Alaoui, minister of state; Azzedine Laraki, Minister of national education; Abd Ellatif-Semlali, secretary of state for youth and sports; Moroccan ambassador to Tunisia Mohamed Tazi; a number of ministry secretaries general and some senior officials.

The talks were attended on the Tunisian side by the Abdelaziz Lasram, minister of economy; Mohamed Kraiem, minister of youth and sports; Tunisian Ambassador in Rabat, Salah ad-Din 'Abdallah and the rest of the members of the Tunisian delegation.

During the meeting, the issues of bilateral cooperation were discussed. At the beginning of the meeting, Prime Minister Maati Bouabid welcomed Mohamed Mzali and discussed political relations between the two countries, calling them exemplary. He noted the identity of viewpoints in various fields and the similarity of their attitudes on international relations, particularly in regard to the Arab Maghreb, Africa and the Arab world, and the North-South dialogue.

Concerning bilateral relations, Maati Bouabid pointed out they are progressing satisfactorily and they have crystalized in the economic, social and cultural fields since the meeting of the mixed committee in Tunis last year. In his speech, the prime minister noted the joint projects achieved and to be consolidated by agreements to be signed tomorrow. He also talked about the encouraging prospects for cooperation in trade, finance and tourism.

Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali in turn talked about coordinating the work and the consultations which characterize Moroccan-Tunisian relations.

Afterward, the two prime ministers left the conference hall and the meeting was resumed at the level of ministers and experts of both countries. The two delegations will resume their meetings tomorrow morning and the expanded committee headed by the two prime ministers will meet tomorrow evening to sign the agreements.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI DISCUSSES REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, LIBYA

JN171544 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1458 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Mar (SUNA) -- In a press conference today on the regional government in Sudan, President Numayri said the May revolution has adopted a method for the administration and the government to achieve popular democracy and to bring about as much public participation as possible.

President Numayri said that the regional government law reflects the May revolution's ability to create. This law, President Numayri added, is historic because it transfers authority to the public. His excellency said that within the framework of the regional government, the term of the regional governors appointed in 1980 will end in June.

President Numayri said he issued a bill today organizing the measures of nomiantion for the new regional governors for 1982. According to this bill, a meeting will be held in every region to choose the nominees for post of governor of the region.

President Numayri announced at the press conference here today that every Sudanese has the right to nominate himself for the post of regional governor if he fulfills the conditions provided for in the bill. It is not conditional for the nominee to be from the same region. His excellency said that there should not be more than three candidates for the post of regional governor.

Replying to questions on the performance of the regional governments during the previous period, the president said despite the economic constraints, those governments performed their duty in that they relieved the masses of many hardships. His excellency said: The regional governments tackled the demonstrations staged by the students during the previous period. Were is not for the existence of these governments, the central government would not have been able to perform this duty.

President Numayri emphasized that as president he will never interfere with the powers of the regions. He said he only intervened when he ordered the armed forces to enter Khartoum University.

At his press conference, President Numayri said Libya is very active in dispatching military hardware and explosives to Sudan. Replying to journalists' questions the president said he cannot confirm that Ethiopia is also doing this. He added: Perhaps, Ethiopia is being used. But we are not yet certain.

President Numayri said: Libya is using all our borders. It is also using Ethiopia's border. We are now in contact with Ethiopia to find out if the Ethiopians have any information that their territory is being used against Sudan.

President Numayri said: We do not have any information that Ethiopia is involved. But we have solid information about Libya. The president explained: I don't know if the Ethiopian border has been used, but I will not be surprised if it has. The Libyans are ready to use anything in the world. After all, they have the money.

President Numayri said: Although the United States has banned the sale of U.S. planes to Libya, I heard a week or so ago that the Libyans bought three planes from other countries. It is difficult for the United States to apply the ban because the Libyans did not buy these planes as whole units, but as spare parts. They used the planes in Libya. Therefore, they can use the Ethiopian border. As a matter of fact, they can use the Sudanese borders. However, I cannot say that the Ethiopian Government is involved.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM IRAQ'S HUSAYN

JN171520 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Mar (SUNA) -- President Numayri today received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on developing and consolidating Sudanese-Iraqi ties on the level of government organs and various political and popular organizations.

The message was conveyed to the president today by the minister of state for interior affairs, Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Saq, who conveyed a similar message to President Saddam Husayn from President Numayri during his visit to Iraq to attend the 10th Arab labor conference, which concluded its work in Baghdad on 16 March. Abu Saq later said that a high-ranking Iraqi envoy soon will visit Khartoum to further develop the fraternal ties between the two countries. Abu Saq briefed President Numayri on the activities of the Sudanese delegation during the Arab labor conference.

ITALIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DESCRIBES TALKS

EA172138 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Summary] President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri today received the Italian deputy foreign minister in his office in the people's palace. The Italian official told the president he had come to Sudan to discuss African issues of concern to the two countries as well as bilateral, political and economic relations. He described his talks with Sudanese officials as successful and said that a joint economic commission will meet twice a year henceforth. He said the next meeting will be held in Rome in 3 months and will discuss Italian aid to Sudan.

GHANA

CHAIRMAN RAWLINGS QUESTIONS VALUE OF ELECTIONS

AB181040 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, has emphasized that Ghanaians will only retain their newly won freedom if they are well informed, and also involved in taking decisions that affect them. Addressing a rally at Bolgatanga yesterday, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings said from now on Ghanaians have to take part in the decisionmaking process.

[Begin recording] This is why we say that nobody is going to sit in that damn Castle in Accra and make decisions for you. [applause and shouts] In other words, if those people [words indistinct] were to be consulted about their needs, (?what's wrong with that)? I don't think they will be so foolish like that big man to ask for a hotel when their children are dying in that hospital and their children don't have water to drink or don't have drugs in their hospitals. This is why the people will now have to be a part of the decisionmaking process.

This is why, I mean after all, when you and I are given those pieces of paper to go and put into that ballot box, along with it -- it appears -- goes our rights and decisions too; which means that you and I are mere robots to be told what to do day in and day out for the betterment of this country. And for 25 years now, all we know is that we have always been told what to do and things never get better. So for a change, we are not going to put any damn paper into any box! We are going to get involved. [applause] Whether you are a soldier, policeman, worker, farmer, wherever you come from; so long as you are a citizen of this country, that is your right because it is your blood, sweat and tears that create the wealth of this country. So, when you and I call it social wealth, why shouldn't you and I enjoy the benefits that come out of the burden we bear producing it?

Here again comes the question of knowledge. We shall have to ensure that we get involved, but when you and I are talking about being a part of the decisionmaking process, are we first and foremost ensured that we know what we are going to have to decide in the first place?

You see what I mean? It means knowledge is necessary. Quite apart from that, for those of you who are going to be that active in the formation of the people's defense committee [as heard] And why the people's defense committee? Because whenever you have one man for your representative, he wants to sit in that big parliament hall and forget you. This is why I am sorry! I am not even taking your rights to say I am representing you because I could have been doing the same thing. This is why it is very necessary for each and every one of us to have to get involved so that Rawlings, God or the Devil, cannot fool us any more. [applause] [end recording]

MALI

DPRK VICE PREMIER ENDS VISIT, MAKES COMMENTS

AB172125 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Excerpt] The vice premier of the DPRK, His Excellency Chon Chun-ki, ended his official visit to Mali today. Before returning home, he once again expressed satisfaction over the fruitful cooperation between the DPRK and Mali.

[Begin Chon Chun-ki recording in Korean, fading into French translation] I would first of all like to express my sincere thanks to the Democratic Union of Malian People, the government and the Malian people for the warm reception given to us during our stay in your beautiful country.

We are happy that the present visit has contributed positively to the strengthening and development of friendly relations between our two countries. We are moved by the support given by the head of state, Gen Moussa Traore, and leaders of the Malian Government to the proposed reunification of Korea, which consists in reunifying the country, a means of creating a Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo. [end recording]

NIGERIA

COMMENTATOR CONDEMNS U.S. MILITARY SALES TO RSA

AB171327 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Itirika Nzeogwu commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Government has done it again: In an apparent show of disrespect to the United Nations and in utter disregard for all the UN resolutions on military and trade embargoes against South Africa, the Reagan administration recently resumed arms sale to the racist government. By this very act, America has shown again her lack of sensitivity to the desire of the people of southern Africa for self-determination. Although according to official sources, the resumption was for the sale of nonmilitary equipment, there is incontrovertible evidence to show that the contrary is the case. Much as we are therefore tempted to borrow Alexander Haig's boring description of Lord Carrington for this outrageous action, we hesitate because of its very bad taste. For a couple of years now the Western contact group, under the leadership of American State Department officials, has been in the midst of numerous diplomatic forays, ostansibly to resolve the intractable issue of Namibia's independence. Yet, it is most distressing to note that it is this same government that is doing everything possible to frustrate the genuine desire of the people of Namibia. We could have called for the abrogation of this decision, that if past foreign policy records are anything to go by it is doubtful if the Reagan administration will be persuaded to rescind this regrettable decision. [sentence as heard]

It appears to be the basis of the present government's policy to bolster up ultrarightist, repressive regimes as major bulwarks against what they consider to be Soviet expansionism. The Salvadorian example is the most recent case in point. Commonsense dictates that in the pursuance of foreign policy objectives, a nation considers the morality and the long-term results of her actions. But we fail to appreciate the rationale and the use of converting southern Africa into another American quagmire. The military supremacy of the retired general in the State Department ought to be curbed. The U.S. Government should not lay itself open to the charge of exporting instability and repression to various regions of the world. Peddling arms and defense notions abroad is not exactly the ideal form of diplomacy. When one considers the deplorable record of South Africa's human rights violations, it is impossible to find the guiding light behind America's policy in that country.

We recall that in 1961, after the Sharpeville massacre, when the world was moved in righteous indignation against the brutality of Verwoerd's government, it was America that stepped in to prevent the collapse of that obnoxious rule. Now that 1982 has been named year of promotion of sanctions against apartheid South Africa, and United States has begun a reenactement of the 1961 scenario. Ever since President Reagan's inauguration and a warming up of relations between the Pentagon and the South African Defense Forces, there has been a shameless challenging of the apartheid regime by the U.S. Government. [as heard] Already, from the unsavory alliance has resulted the birth of the South Atlantic Treaty Organization and ascension in racist intransigence against Namibia and independent southern African states. All said and done, we cannot say we have been happy with the U.S. African policy, especially in the light of recent developments. Hence, we condemn in the most unequivocal terms the resumption of military and nonmilitary equipment sale to apartheid South Africa.

ANGOLA

STATEMENT DENOUNCES RSA PLANS FOR NEW OFFENSIVE

AB171340 Luanda ANGOP in French 1245 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Paris, 17 Mar (ANGOP) -- In a statement made this morning in Paris, Luis de Almeida, ambassador of the People's Republic of Angola to France, denounces the preparations for a new large-scale military offensive against the People's Republic of Angola, in which regular troops from the South African Army and Africans trained by mercenaries of various nationalities are to take part. The statement reads:

At a time when the international community is following with concern the deterioration of the international situation and the aggravation of the military escalation in southern Africa as a result of the ever-increasing aggressiveness of the South African racists, new threats loom over this part of the world.

On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Angola, the Embassy of the People's Republic of Angola in France wishes to inform world opinion of the following:

Trustworthy sources in Pretoria indicate that the South African Government is on the point of launching a new large-scale military offensive against the People's Republic of Angola. To this end, forces estimated at 10,000 Africans trained by mercenaries of various nationalities (in particular, British, Portuguese and American) and led by South African officers are getting ready to launch vast helicopter-borne military operations against several major Angolan towns, including Luanda, the capital. These operations are aimed at destroying the strategic economic objectives and at killing the country's main leaders.

According to the same sources, Cuban units in Angola will also be attacked in order to test their retaliatory and resistance capacity. This plan apparently was prepared with the support of certain Western circles favorable to Pretoria, particularly in the United States, the UK and the FRG.

The People's Republic of Angola denounces, forthwith, this Machiavellian plan and calls the attention of Western countries, friends of South Africa, to the dangerous consequences the execution of such sordid plots could have on international security.

The People's Republic of Angola reaffirms its recongized right to appeal for external aid, if necessary, in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

OFFICIALS, SWAPO MAKE NO COMMENT ON RSA RAID

AB171940 Paris AFP in French 1806 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Luanda, 17 Mar (AFP) -- The South African Government's announcement of a new raid in southern Angola against SWAPO guerrillas shows once again that the complex diplomatic game currently undertaken in a bid to peacefully settle the Namibian conflict did not stop the armed conflict, observers note in Luanda.

By Wednesday afternoon, Angolan authorities had not reacted to information from Pretoria on the raid. The SWAPO representative in Launda also indicated that he had no comment.

Concerning last Saturday's flash raid, diplomatic circles in Luanda estimate that South Africa, while not launching a large-scale operation as previously, wants to make reprisals against SWAPO attacks in Namibia and to show it is ready to continue the war if the Western contact group does not find an acceptable solution.

According to the same sources, in addition to the Namibian question, South Africa fears encirclement which in the long run would favor ANC activities and all those favoring the disappearance of apartheid and a black majority rule.

Observers in Luanda note that the South African raid comes in the wake of a Maputo summit where leaders of the frontline states decided to strengthen their cooperation in the face of "South African aggression." It also comes at a time when the Western contact group's efforts on Namibia do not seem to be yielding any results and during talks recently opened in Paris between Angolans and Americans.

ANGOP CRITICIZES REAGAN'S CARIBBEAN BASIN SPEECH

AB172050 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1700 GMT 17 Mar 82

[ANGOP commentary: "Caribbean Area in Tumult"]

[Text] The Caribbean today engages the attention of the entire world because the U.S. reactionary policy in the region is most alarming.

A few days ago, Reagan attended a meeting of the OAS council which has been dominated by the United States since its inception. At that meeting, he submitted a plan to resolve the problems of the Caribbean. It is natural that Reagan should not even mention changing the semifeudal structures that prevail in many of these countries or even recognize their poverty and backwardness. In substance he proposed to solve the problems which can only be called by one name -- underdevelopment -- and to do so solely with certain customs exemptions and attracting a few investments from the transnationals. Reagan made a showy appearance of offering $350 million to countries with an adverse economic situation while, for this year along, the U.S. Government has a military budget of more than $200 billion. We can measure the size of this aid with what an American representative told the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee. The United States received in 1978 more than $100 million per day as profits from its foreign investments.

At what does this plan aim if not greater penetration and domination by American imperialism, while increasing the economic dependence of the countries near the United States?

Can anyone seriously believe that this can solve the grave economic and social problems of the region, which are the result of the dependence imposed by a most outrageous imperialism?

We have not forgotten the theme used by Reagan on his party's electoral platform: U.S. foreign aid should serve as a means for exporting U.S. ideology.

In his speech, the President also hinted at something which seems to be a constant policy since his accession to power a little over a year ago, in other words, the possibility of intervening militarily through concerted action with the reactionary countries in the area against such countries as Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada or against such countries as El Salvador and Guatemala, which are waging a courageous revolutionary struggle. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives are, in fact, concerned about the increasing aid the Reagan government grants to the tyrannical Government of El Salvador. Many view this as a repitition of the policy adopted in Vietnam: the constant increase of military aid in the form of weapons, the increasing number of military advisers who are already participating directly in the fighting and the threat of a possible intervention that could cause a confrontation in the whole area.

What is actually going on in the region?

Since the triumph of the revolution in Cuba 23 years ago, there have been a revolutionary process in Grenada and the Sandinista victory in Nicaragua, which completed its revolutionary process in 1979. More recently, there has been an intensification of the revolutionary struggle in El Salvador and Guatemala.

A profound process of radical changes is taking place and this of course disturbs Ronald Reagan's government. This is why they never tire of propagandizing, through the mass media controlled by the major transnationals throughout the whole capitalist world, that the revolutionary outburst in El Salvador and in the whole of Central America is under the external influence and intervention of Cuba and Nicaragua in this region, while accusing them of bringing in Soviet arms and training the anti-American guerrillas.

What is the real reason behind the escalation of the struggle in El Salvador?

It is the result of decades of exploitation of the poor peasants; it is the result of the 67 percent illiteracy and the fact that out of every five potential female workers, only one has a job; it is because tens of thousands of people have been massacred since the 1930's while the military has held power in one way or another.

At what is the U.S. administration actually aiming in Central America?

Reagan himself openly revealed this when he said: If we do not act quickly and decisively in defense of freedom, new struggles will emerge from the ruins of the present ones.

It is obvious that they do not want any more revolutions. Fighting the historical reality, they wish to check the victorious march of the masses. They know that revolutionary Cuba with its advancement in all areas -- economic, educational and health -- has reached a level of development that is an example to the rest of the peoples who see generations of men pass by without their promises being fulfilled.

The people of that region have started the march toward a revolutionary future and they are opposed by U.S. imperialism which does not wish to respect the self-determination of peoples nor to listen to proposals for peaceful and negotiated solutions as made recently by Jose Lopez Portillo, president of Mexico.

We know, because this has been proved several times, that the Government and people of Cuba will not be intimidated and that the struggle of the masses will not be stopped. This is why Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada, the Salvadoran and Guatemalan revolutionaries and the peoples of the Caribbean have the militant solidarity of all the world's revolutionary and progressive forces.

NAMIBIA

COMMENTARY VIEWS U.S.-RSA COLLABORATION

EA161226 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Station Commentary]

[Excerpts] The Reagan U.S. administration and the Pretoria racist regime continue their unseemly political intrigues and maneuvers over the independence issue of Namibia. The cunning collaboration of the U.S. Reagan administration and the racist South Africans is (?an imperialist ploy) of the two (?inhuman) countries to try to perpetuate their economic plunderance [as heard] of Namibia's mineral wealth. The Washington administration is working day and night, around the clock, to find ways and means of destroying or repressing the liberation forces in Namibia.

Reagan is monthly -- if not weekly -- sending his CIA generals for conspiratorial talks with the (?racist clique) in Pretoria, on matters that does [as heard] not in any way concern the Reagan administration but on matters that concern the inalienable rights of the Namibian people to self-determination.

At one stage, as everyone else can recall, the Reagan administration foolishly announced that it was prepared to draft a constitution for the constitutional assembly during the transition period before Namibia's attainment of independence. This is quite ridiculous and (?unheralded).

Firstly, it is common knowledge that the Washington government knows perfectly well that the Pretoria racist regime has actually given up the idea of reaching the Namibian settlement by negotiation. The Reagan administration, knowing that the Botha racist regime of South Africa is not interested in a peaceful negotiated settlement for Namibia's independence, continues to arm the racist regime, with the aim of trying to restore the racist regime's illegal occupation of Namibia. The racist regime of Pretoria is illegally occupying Namibia with the brute force of arms delivered to the regime by the Reagan adventurist administration.

It is also common knowledge that the U.S. Reagan administration officially lifted the ban on the sales of so-called nonmilitary equipment for the racist South African Army and police of the apartheid South Africa. With this [word indistinct] aim, the Washington administration tries to smokescreen the supplies of army trucks, (?means of) communication and other war materiel to the racist regime in Pretoria. This imperialist step, taken by Ronald Reagan, logically flows from the general policy of his administration in Washington (?of) directly backing the racist occupationist regime in Namibia. Since after his election as President, Reagan has been [words indistinct] carrying out his credo regarding the imperialist-oriented Botha clique, calling this regime America's wartime ally.

Ronald Reagan said in his own way -- and he is still saying it -- that it is impossible to abandon this country, meaning racist South Africa, which (?held) together with the United States in [words indistinct] a country strategically inseparable from capitalist countries owing to the fact that it produces minerals needed by the greedy monopolist-capitalist countries.

This statement of the Reagan administration was backed by America's deeds in southern Africa. To start with, Washington legislators changed the export rules to include amendments making it possible to sell racist South Africa various destructive military equipment to help the regime perpetuate its repressive, oppressive and exploitative ?aegis) in Namibia and South Africa. At that stage last year, the U.S. Reagan administration passed legistation of sending [as heard] a naval attache and two representatives of the U.S. Air Force to the American Embassy in racist South Africa. It was suggested that independent Africa and the international community (?should justly regard it) [words indistinct] as the new proof of strengthening and expanding cooperation between the Reagan adventurist administration and the apartheid regime of South Africa.

(?As is commonly known), the Reagan administration and its NATO partners are utilizing strategically convenient military bases in Namibia and South Africa. The Namibian port of Walvis Bay, which was annexed by the Pretoria racist regime by orders from Washington, has been turned into a naval base of racist South Africa and the militarist NATO countries.

The U.S. Reagan administration's attitude on the independence issue of Namibia thus becomes clear. It is a well-known fact that Washington does not want to see the people of Namibia free from the yoke of colonialism and foreign domination (?or freedom and democracy reached) under the supervision and control of the United Nations.

The independence issue of Namibia is long overdue and this should be kept in mind by the makers of endless proposals on the independence question of Namibia. Namibians from all walks of life will not in any way tolerate any [words indistinct] maneuver and plot worked out by the imperialist countries, under the leadership of their American commander, aimed at robbing the Namibian people of their final victory over the forces of colonalism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, imperialism and the illegal occupation of our beloved motherland, Namibia.

As already said, we, the Namibian people, shall die fighting for the realization of our inalienable right to self-determination, freedom and national independence. As the Washington administration continues with its connivance with the racist regime of Pretoria, the war for liberation daily intensifies and (?frankly) we will leave no stone unturned in our noble march to independence.

(?We say): Down with the U.S. (?racist support and imperialist) cooperation! Forward to people's victory! Our clarion call for the year 1982 is: Everything and every effort for the struggle! All for final victory! Independence or death! SWAPO will win and Namibia will be free.

SOUTH AFRICA

ANGOLAN CLAIM OF OFFENSIVE DESERVES 'CONTEMPT'

LD172130 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] The South African Defense Force says allegations by the Angolan Government that South Africa is launching a so-called massive offensive to kill leading Angolan politicians are so absurd that it rejects the allegations with the contempt they deserve. Speaking in Pretoria, a defense force spokesman said it was the declared policy of South Africa to live in peace with its neighbors. South Africa, however, was involved in a war with SWAPO terrorists and countries like Angola which gave sanctuary to terrorists had to bear the consequences of their actions.

The spokesman was commenting on an Angolan accusation that the South African offensive was being prepared with Western support. The accusation was made in an official statement issued by the Angolan Embassy in Paris and followed the latest South African raid into southern Angola, in which more than 200 SWAPO terrorists were killed. The statement said South Africa was planning to send 10,000 troops into Angola with the aim of attacking major towns, including the capital, Luanda. It said the plan was being prepared with the support of Western countries, including the United States, Britain and West Germany.

GENERAL CALLS ANGOLAN OPERATION SUCCESSFUL

LD171224 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] The general officer commanding the South-West Africa territory force, Maj Gen Charles Lloyd, says operation super, in which security forces killed 201 SWAPO terrorists near Cambeno in southern Angola, was one of the defense force's most successful operations in the area.

Addressing a news conference at Oshakati, General Lloyd ascribed its success to good information, thorough planning, well-trained soldiers and the fact that the terrorists were taken completely by surprise. He said the buildup of SWAPO forces in the southwestern part of Angola was an indication of SWAPO's intention to open a new front in Kaokoland. SWAPO had been dealt a severe blow by the operation and General Lloyd said the security forces would continue to act against SWAPO and eliminate its bases wherever they were.

General Lloyd said food supplies from Zimbabwe had been found in a SWAPO base raided in southern Angola. Our correspondent in Salisbury says the Zimbabwean authorities are investigating this claim. General Lloyd showed journalists tins of beef which had labels stating that they had been canned in Bulawayo. However, he denied that any proof had been found of weapons supplied to SWAPO from Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe pledged material support to SWAPO last year when he [as heard] visited Zimbabwe for several days at the invitation of the Salisbury government.

STAR SAYS UNITA TO RELEASE PORTUGUESE CIVILIANS

AB171900 Paris AFP in French 1715 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Johannesburg, 17 Mar (AFP) -- Jonas Savimbi's UNITA will soon release 28 Portuguese civilians, the STAR of Johannesburg reported on Wednesday.

According to the evening daily which quoted Portuguese sources, a Portuguese delegation arrived last Saturday in Johannesburg and at an undisclosed date will go to the Angola-Namibia border where the Portuguese civilians will be handed to them before returning to Lisbon via South Africa.

The Portuguese delegation is led by Jose Gama, vice president of Social Democratic Center [CDS], a member of the government majority in Portugal.

According to the STAR, the CDS has been holding talks for more than 1 year with the Angolan rebel movement. The newspaper stated that a representative of the CDS recently met Jonas Savimbi, leader of UNITA in an African country. The same sources, still quoted by the STAR, said other Portuguese civilians have opted to fight on the side of UNITA against the government of Luanda.

ZIMBABWE

MINISTER: PLANS UNDERWAY TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION

CA181016 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] The government has declared war on the colonial laws in Zimbabwe. The minister of legal and parliamentary affairs, Comrade Zvobgo, said this at a news conference in Salisbury today when he announced the structure of his ministry. He said plans are underway to examine and transform Zimbabwe's Constitution. Comrade Zvobgo said his ministry was created to fulfill the need to modify the racist Constitution imposed on Zimbabwe at Lancaster House. The minister said although there are a number of wrong things with the present Constitution, the ministry willnot rush into wholesale changes. He said all changes in the Constitution will be made within the limitations of the present one. The Ministry of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs will be concerned with constitutional affairs, legal drafting as well as legal affairs and that of parliamentary affairs. Comrade Zvobgo said his ministry welcomes applications from interested legal practitioners in the country, political scientists, sociologists, psychologists, as well as social scientists. He added that the ministry will be fully functional by the beginning of the next financial year.